

## BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES 9/23/2020

Meeting was called to order at 5:46 pm by Vice President John Marx. Members present were Kim Gruebling, Jim Lunde and Brit Springer and Wayne Ace filling in for Mark O'Brien. Also present were Mason Barber and Dan Dean. Sarah Andrisevic was present via online video conference.

Motion: Lunde/Springer to approve minutes of 9/16/2020 meeting as written. Motion carried. Ace abstained.

Wayne Ace commented he will be filling in for Mark O'Brien for the time being.

Marx stated the commission discussed and approved both budgets during the September 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting and make a recommendation to the joint meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The municipalities were unable to come to an agreement on the budgets during that meeting and they directed the commission to reconsider their recommendation on a budget without the fire chief. If the commission does not approve a different budget during this meeting, the budget approved September 9<sup>th</sup> goes to the joint meeting for approval directly following this meeting. The budgets in discussion at this meeting do not include the fire chief salary.

Springer commented on the \$24,000 increase in the budget equipment line, that the Chief mentioned at a bare minimum they could look at purchasing hoses instead of the full equipment and asked how much the hoses are. Chief Barber commented that it would be \$5,000 - \$6,000.

Springer asked what the utilization of the current equipment is. Chief Barber stated Engine #2 will be replaced with the new truck in December and he doesn't feel comfortable putting the extrication equipment from Engine #2 on the new truck because it is old technology that doesn't work as well on newer vehicles. The problem is they just don't have enough equipment. With the road construction at hwy 14/92 coming sometime in 2021, he expects there to be more car accidents. EMS Director Dean commented the department responds to about 40 car accidents a year and about half of those they need to use the extrication equipment and the old equipment doesn't work as well, and they usually need more than one set at an accident.

Springer asked how many extrication units they have? Chief Barber stated they have one on engine #1, a small portable extrication unit about 10 years old. The one on engine #2 is at least 30 years old. Springer asked if there is a grant available to pay for the new equipment. Chief Barber stated probably, but it doesn't guarantee the department will get the money. They lost out on a grant last year for the air packs. And it is time consuming to look for/apply for grants and he just doesn't have the time. Springer asked if the extrication equipment can be purchased with the departments unallocated funds. Chief Barber doesn't know how much the department will have at the end of 2020; they used up a lot of the funds for the new truck. He commented he structures his purchases more towards the end of the year to make sure they have the money for anything that comes up during the year. He is looking to purchase more turn out gear this year and that is why there is still a significant amount of that budget line item left. Springer commented the village is trying to be mindful on the budget this year given the current economic conditions.

Springer suggested several ways the district could try saving money on the budget. Speaking with Charter to reduce the bill and bidding out the mowing. EMS Director Dean commented the district is under contract for mowing with his company for another year and his bid was much lower than other companies. Springer stated the village would be interested in doing the mowing and she would follow up with Dean on that.

Springer asked why there are no donations listed under the revenue section. The Fire and EMS Associations receive donations and do fundraising and is not district money. Earlier in the year the EMS Association used their fundraising money to purchase a LUCAS device which was donated to the district. That can be seen on the EMS financials under in-kind revenue.

Springer commented the EMS budget salary line has a \$25,500 increase and the village clerk calculated based on the salaries up to August 31<sup>st</sup>, that the salaries would likely exceed \$5,000 of the current year budget and not \$25,500. She thinks the budget should go up a little bit more but not \$25,500. EMS Director Dean commented the budget increase is to cover the station/ambulance to be fully staffed. If they are short of that, it's because volunteers cover day time hours or the ambulance is out of service. He estimates the department will be \$12,000 - \$14,000 over budget this year.

Springer commented there is \$13,000 in the budget for hazard pay and the department has already spent \$20,000 this year and how is it going to work for 2021. EMS Director Dean stated he put in the budget money for the first quarter of 2021. And beyond that, he doesn't know. Marx commented the district has applied to be reimbursed for the hazard pay through the CARES Act and should know by the end of October. If the district does not get reimbursed they will probably have to make a decision to stop hazard pay for the rest of the year. And for next year, Congress has not yet passed a bill to extend federal relief money into 2021 and if it doesn't pass, they will not be able to pay hazard pay at all next year.

Springer made a motion to remove the \$24,000 equipment increase on the fire budget and remove \$15,500 from the salary increase on the EMS budget. There was no second, motion died. The budgets approved on September 9<sup>th</sup> stand.

Next meeting will be October 14, 2020.

Motion: Lunde/Gruebling to adjourn at 6:44 pm. Motion carried.