

North Shore Fire Department Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom Conferencing

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Andy Pederson, representing Bayside
Wanda Montgomery, representing Brown Deer
Douglas Frazer, representing Fox Point
Bryan Kennedy, representing Glendale
Peter Kingwill, representing River Hills
Rebecca Ewald, representing Shorewood
Julie Siegel, representing Whitefish Bay

Also Present: Robert Whitaker, Fire Chief
Andrew Harris, Assistant Chief
John Maydak, Assistant Chief
KateLynn Harrigan, Finance Director
Kerry Wenzel, Administrative Coordinator
Nick Padway, Fire Commission Chair
Michael Hall, Brown Deer Village Manager
Tammy LaBorde, River Hills Village Manager
Paul Boening, Whitefish Bay Village Manager

2. PERSONS DESIRING TO BE HEARD

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Frazer and seconded by Mr. Kingwill to approve the August 11, 2020 Board of Directors Minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0 (Mr. Kennedy abstain).

4. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DEPARTMENT CALLS, STAFFING, APPOINTMENT/PROMOTION NEEDS, TRAINING, FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Staff continues to meet with the architect for the Station 82 project.

The ICC voted on the Shared Service Agreement. Chief Whitaker stated it was a large amount of work and thanked members for their support. Six fire recruits started the Joint Fire Training Academy last week. Staff worked through a comprehensive plan for COVID precautions.

Ms. Montgomery asked if the Department is aware of any 2020 retirements. Chief Whitaker stated the Department is anticipating between 2-4 by the end of the year. Mr. Frazer asked if there is a source that the Department has seen recruiting success. Mr. Padway stated the Department sees success from the technical colleges both through interns and relationships Staff has with local colleges. Chief Whitaker

stated a challenge for the Department is that the City of Milwaukee has a training program for those out of high school where they are offered a salary and benefits while also receiving training. After completion, these candidates are guaranteed a spot in a recruit class.

5. NSFD COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Fire Commission met in August to approve the six firefighters. Additionally, one Fire Lieutenant and Heavy Equipment Operator were removed from probation. The Commission is looking to approve an ADA rule to ensure the Commission has rules and guidelines in place for when accommodations are requested.

Ms. Montgomery suggested the Department research Milwaukee's Promise program to target fire and police professions. Staff will research that program.

Chairman Padway added that Phil Santacroce resigned from the Commission. Bayside is looking to fill the vacancy.

6. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – KATELYNN HARRIGAN

The Department is 66% through the fiscal year. Revenues and expenditures are trending closely; revenue is at 66.73% and expenditures are at 66.81%. Staff is going through the transition with the new billing agency, Andres Billing. The Department has over \$100,000 in grant submissions that are outstanding.

Throughout September and October, the Department will see an increase in salary expenses related to expenses associated with the Joint Fire Training Academy.

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-02: IN THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT PASS A RESOLUTION ALLOWING AN OPTION FOR THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT AN EXCEPTION TO THE LEVY LIMITS FOR CHARGES FOR THE NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO 2005 WISCONSIN ACT 484

Chief Whitaker stated this resolution allows municipalities the option to use the exemption for North Shore Fire Department charges. State law requires the resolution to pass unanimously at the NSFD Board and at the municipal level, as well.

It was moved by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Mr. Frazer to adopt Resolution 20-02. Motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-03: A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE 2021 NSFD FEES FOR SERVICE SCHEDULE

Chief Whitaker stated this is an annual review of the fee structure. EMS fees are recommended to be adjusted by 3.5%, which is the Medical Care Commodities and Medical Care Service CPI. Mr. Kennedy asked if there are negotiated charges with some insurance companies. Ms. Harrigan stated when Medicare is billed, they will only pay a certain amount and the Department does anticipate writing off those fees.

It was moved by Ms. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adopt Resolution 20-03. Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 20-04: IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

Chief Whitaker stated this is the agreement for Mutual Assistance that the ICC is recommending for adoption. Mr. Frazer asked what had changed. Chief Whitaker stated the change is related to the liability language.

It was moved by Mr. Frazer and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adopt Resolution 20-04. Motion carried unanimously.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Whitaker stated OEM is working through some staffing changes and have been in contact with their representatives.

11. DATE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 13, 2020 via Zoom.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously at 8:34 a.m.

Kerry Wenzel for
Wanda Montgomery
Secretary/Treasurer
NSFD Board of Directors