

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MADISON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION**

09-15-21

CALL TO ORDER @ 7:06 pm

ROLL CALL:

- Mr. Adams	x Mr. Lee	x Chief Baker
x Mr. Anderson	x Mr. Vest	x Joanne Clapp
x Mr. Gauntner	- Mr. Wayman	x Stacy Dame

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The pledge was recited by all.

REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 18, 2021 Regular Session minutes were presented.

Motion to approve minutes as presented by: Mr. Lee

Seconded by: Mr. Gauntner

ROLL CALL: All ayes

BILLS & PAYROLL - August 2021

Bills (\$76,950.08), Lake County Tax (\$9,189.86) and Payroll (\$145,539.41) for a total of \$231,679.35 are motioned for acceptance and payment.

Motion to approve bills and payroll as presented by: Mr. Vest

Seconded by: Mr. Lee

ROLL CALL: All ayes

FINANCIAL REPORT - August 2021

Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer, summarized the August 2021 Revenue and Expenditures (Fund Summary Report).

OPENING PUBLIC PORTION - None to report.

LEGAL COUNSEL - None to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Station #2 Renovation and Addition Project -

Four (4) bids were received for the project. Two (2) of the four were qualified and were within the 10% requirement (James Martin Contractor Services LLC & Metis Construction Services) and two (2) were not (Hummel Construction Company & Lakeland Construction Group. Andrew with CT Consultants has taken all of the bids back to the office and will ensure all requirements

have been met for the two (2) acceptable bids. CT Consultants will send their recommendation to Chief Baker within 10 days and he will share with the Board.

Chief Baker recommended that a special meeting be held on September 29, 2021 to review the recommendation from CT consultants and make a contractor selection.

Mr. Gauntner agreed it would be wise to have the special meeting so that the process can keep moving forward due to the impending winter weather and also materials shortages that are occurring.

Mr. Anderson also agreed it is a good decision based on the increased cost of other materials as previously mentioned and also increased cost for aluminum which could be used for beams and such.

Motion made to hold a special meeting on September 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm to review the CT recommendation and award the project by: Mr. Gauntner

Seconded by: Mr. Lee

ROLL CALL: All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing

Chief Baker reported that at the last officer's meeting the main focus was staffing. A sixth (6th) spot will be opened on the scheduled as a voluntary overtime shift. This is an effort to have 3 people at each station for all shifts to be able to provide service to the community as the part time roster number continues to decrease and those able to be hired are less qualified than ever before. This will be monitored over the next several months to ensure it is not negatively impacting the budget.

The officer group would also like to put together a cost projection to hire additional full-time staff for the next 1,3 and 5 years. Chief Baker expressed concern regarding the uncertainty of federal monies, vaccination mandates, insurance billing, etc. that we have no control over. Our benefits administrator advised Chief Baker that there will be significant changes to the healthcare plan for the district in 2022 as our current plan's 'grandfathered' status will expire. Should the additional staffing cause budgetary issues in the future, a suggested option would be to not replace retirees. Current staff cannot be expected to continue at the pace they are working currently; it has both physical and mental impact over time.

Mr. Lee expressed his support to Chief Baker citing current finances and current call volumes but asked the timeline for hiring. Chief Baker responded that he would like to present the numbers and suggested timeline at the next regularly scheduled meeting since he is out of options.

Mr. Anderson also expressed his support to review and discuss options at the next meeting.

Mr. Vest expressed concern; he understood that the last hiring approval was intended to carry the district through the increased volumes. He asked that the long term budget impact be shown on the proposal as he is concerned the increase may cause the need for a levy. Chief Baker reminded the group that nobody could have anticipated the district would lose 1/3 of the part time roster over the last 4-6 months. The roster is down to 18 people from 40. Chief Baker stated that he firmly believes it will be 2024 - 2025 before the district will need to request a levy. He also stated that employees are the most expensive asset but the most important.

Mr. Gaunter agrees the numbers need to be reviewed while respecting Mr. Vest's concern for the budget. He stated staffing is a common issue from coast to coast, especially in the police and fire fields. His opinion is that the District is not able to sustain the volume increases and continue to provide service to the community without adding staff.

Chief Baker stated that should University Hospitals decide to close the Madison Emergency facility it will greatly impact the fire district due to increased time away (travel time). Previously the promise was made to keep it open for at least 7 years; Chief Baker asks that community leaders keep this issue on their radar.

Resolution 21-22 2022 Polaris Ranger 1000 with Skid Load Purchase

A resolution authorizing Chief Baker to purchase a 2022 Polaris Ranger 1000, a trailer and accessories, not to exceed \$26,000 and authorizes payment therein.

Chief Baker reminded all that current equipment is 21 years old and is unreliable. Patient safety is also a concern with the current mule. The proposed new unit will be able to be utilized for both fire and rescue operations. The current equipment will be listed on gov.deals.

Mr. Vest asked Chief Baker to confirm that state pricing was quoted. Chief Baker stated that state pricing saves the district approximately \$1,000.

Motion by: Mr. Gaunter Seconded by: Mr. Lee ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution 21-23 Amounts and Rates

A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the Lake County Auditor.

Motion by: Mr. Vest Seconded by: Mr. Gaunter ROLL CALL: All ayes

Resolution 21-24 DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Advanced Drone Purchase

A resolution authorizing Chief Baker to purchase a DJI Mavic Drone and accessories in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 and authorizes payment therein.

Chief Baker reminded the Board of the request in 2020 for \$5,000 to purchase a drone (which was approved). Due to COVID the educational class was not able to be conducted therefore the drone was not purchased. Classes for October, 2021 have been secured. Chief Baker explained that the model which was to be purchased in 2020 is no longer available and the standard batteries and thermal imaging technology are the contributing factors to the increased price.

Mr. Gauntner asked if the insurance included with the purchase of the drone is sufficient or if the district would need to cover an additional cost. Chief Baker stated that the insurance is part of the package deal (at no additional cost above the \$8,000).

Mr. Gaunter reminded Chief Baker that the previous approval was contingent on it being piloted by only district employees. Chief Baker confirmed that the main pilot will always be Madison Fire District staff.

Mr. Vest questioned if the requirement of two (2) pilots would be an issue given current staffing difficulties; Chief Baker responded that for any instance that it would be utilized for there will be surrounding communities/resources also on site.

Mr. Gaunter reminded the group that \$5,000 was approved in 2020; Ms. Clapp confirmed the monies remain unappropriated so there is really only an additional \$3,000 being asked for.

Motion by: Mr. Gauntner Seconded by: Mr. Anderson ROLL Call: All ayes

CHIEF'S REPORT - July, 2021 - Chief Tod Baker

Staff anniversaries for August include FF Erin Tennant with 6 years, FF Jesse Sopko 5 years, FF Joe Romischer 4 years, FF Nick Law 3 years and FF Korey Baker 3 years.

Tax and EMS revenue are both nearly 5% over budget and projected while salaries remain about 10% under budget despite the overtime.

The call volume for August was 355, an increase of 32% over 2020 and an increase of 28% on the average of the last three (3) years.

Fire inspections are going well and Laurie has been working with Jim and Captain Sopko to get the outstanding invoices collected. Kudos to them as we are \$400 above projected due to the extra effort.

Madison remains the highest reimbursed department in all of Lake County for EMS billing - kudos to all for the great work. Chief Baker sees no benefit to raising the charges at this time since it will not change the amount the insurance companies pay.

CLOSING PUBLIC PORTION - None to report.

CLOSING BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Vest commended the district staff for their efforts during these continued difficult times.

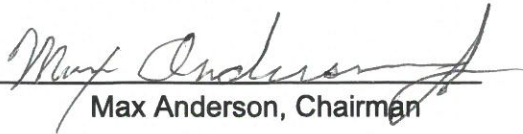
Mr. Anderson announced the next meeting will be the Special Session on September 29th with Regular Session Board meetings being held on October 20th and November 17th @ 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn @ 8:08 pm by: Mr. Vest
Seconded by: Mr. Gauntner

ROLL CALL: All ayes



Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer



Max Anderson, Chairman