



**OLD BUSINESS****Station #2 Renovation and Addition Project - Funding Options**

Awaiting details for the start of the project. Plans have been submitted to the Lake County Building Department.

Mr. Gauntner shared that the zoning permit has been issued for the project.

Ms. Clapp shared that 1.75% is the interest rate to finance the project and asked if bonding the project would be worthwhile. Ms. Clapp stated we are currently making .08% on investments so would not be adequate.

Mr. Gauntner feels the best interest of the district would be to finance initially with the option to pay off later if financial status allows. He also discussed the possibility of monies being pushed to the District from the Township from upcoming funding they are to receive.

**Full-Time Hiring Options**

The officers collectively agree that the department should look into the addition of up to three (3) new full-time hires if candidates are available in order to continue to stabilize the district's staffing challenges.

Budget numbers were shared with all (emailed to some members previously). Two (2) additional part-time resignations have been received which now puts the roster at only 15 with many of those providing minimal hours to the district.

By reducing the part-time dependency in the budget it would off-set the hiring of additional full-time staff. Projections were reviewed for the next 7 years which show 2022 will remain within budget (depending on the County's assessed value). If tax and revenue remain at the \$4.4M level vs. \$4.1M projected will put the district budget neutral for 2022, 2023 and 2024. If one (1) year of the bond is paid should finances allow, the \$450,000 shortfall in 2025 becomes neutral. In 2023 the district will have three (3) people who can take advantage of early retirement, and an additional three (3) people in early 2025. One additional full-time member has accepted a job with a larger department in the area and will be making \$20K more per year. This results in the need to hire up to four (4) full-time members.

Chief Baker recommends the district move forward with the hiring up to 3 additional staff (4 including the newest FT resignation).

Mr. Gauntner reminded all that from a part time perspective the district cannot even compete with fast food starting wages.

All agree that these are unprecedented times.

Mr. Vest asked if the same process (outside sourcing of testing) would be utilized. Chief Baker proposes that internal candidates be looked at before outsourcing. Chief Baker will discuss with Ms. Dame to ensure the process is done correctly. Mr. Vest also questioned if the hiring will create the need for a levy. Chief Baker stated he believes this will not occur until 2025 and believes only a replacement will be needed vs. a new levy at that time.

Mr. Lee asked if there is any incentive that could be implemented for part time applicants to work weekends. Chief Baker reminded all that they have a contract and the subject could possibly be discussed during the next round of negotiations.

Currently the minimum staffing is at five (5) (3 at one station and 2 at the other). Recently a sixth (6th) spot has been opened up to the full-timers to fill as an overtime shift. There are still a few days where the spot remains open. Chief Baker expressed concern for safety issues when staff are continuously working overtime and are sleep deprived.

Mr. Adams asked Chief Baker what the ideal minimum number should be. Chief Baker believes in the best interest of the community it should be eight (8); seven (7) people Monday - Friday and six (6) on the weekend.

Mr. Vest asked if signing bonuses are a possibility. Chief Baker stated that would not be acceptable due to current contracts.

Motion to approve hiring up to four (4) additional full-time staff made by: Mr. Lee

Seconded by: Mr. Gauntner

ROLL CALL: All ayes

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Squad Purchase**

The officers agree following review of multiple options for a 2022 squad replacement that the district should move quickly to purchase a squad if a demo that meets our needs is available. Vendors are providing current build times of 365 days from the day a chassis is delivered. In previous years a squad build time was 120 days. The chip and supply chain disruption is having a significant impact on the options for future purchases.

Chief Baker shared two (2) options:

1. A demo is available through Lifeline that can likely be delivered in 30-60 days. The unit is a pick up style truck that would require additional equipment to be installed. Cost of this option would be \$262,703 plus the load system install at (\$45,000) for a cost of \$307,703.
2. Lifeline also has a van front-end unit available at a list price of \$201,389 plus \$45,000 for the load system install for a total cost of \$249,889. It is in line to be built with a potential delivery date of June, 2022. Chief Baker recommends this option.

Mr. Lee asked if a special meeting is preferred for approval could it be done virtually. Ms. Dame stated virtual meetings are not allowed at this time.

Mr. Wayman asked if the price would remain the same if a unit was ordered. Chief Baker stated he has guaranteed price quotes from the company (regardless of delivery time) for both options.

Mr. Vest questioned if there are other vendors that could be considered. Captain Meister responded that five (5) vendors were contacted and demos reviewed. A couple were well

above the district's price range and one (1) had a smaller unit than what would be needed (unit is now sold).

Mr. Lee asked Chief Baker to confirm the estimated timeframe for delivery is December vs. June respectively. He asked what the impact will be to the district if a current unit goes out of service. Chief Baker replied that current units could be rotated however wear and tear needs to be considered. He also reminded the group that there may be potential for another squad to be ordered in 2022 for a 2023 delivery.

Mr. Adams stated he feels the best interest of the district would be to order the van model, keeping in mind that payment is due upon delivery, not when ordered.

Mr. Gaunter agrees that the best interest of the district is to order the van model and rotate the current units should that become necessary.

Motion to approve the ordering of a new squad (not to exceed \$250,000) made by: Mr. Lee  
Seconded by: Mr. Adams ROLL CALL: All ayes

**Resolution 21-26 Transfer of Funds**

A resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer, Joanne Clapp to reallocate and reappropriate funds from the general fund, specifically unappropriated, to the salaries overtime, OPERS, Garbage, Tax Collection, Transfer Out and Miscellaneous Capital Project for a total of \$358,721.

Motion to approve Resolution 21-26 made by: Mr. Vest  
Seconded by: Mr. Gauntner ROLL CALL: All ayes

**Resolution 21-27 Amendment of Annual Appropriations**

A resolution approving and amending the permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Madison Fire District for the period ending December 31, 2021.

Motion to accept Resolution 21-27 made by: Mr. Lee  
Seconded by: Mr. Wayman ROLL CALL: All ayes

**Resolution 21-28 Transfer of Funds - Debt**

A resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer, Joanne Clapp to transfer funds from the General Fund to the General Bond Retirement Fund.

Motion to approve Resolution 21-28 made by: Mr. Vest  
Seconded by: Mr. Adams ROLL Call: All ayes

**CHIEF'S REPORT - September, 2021 - Chief Tod Baker**

Staff anniversaries for September include FF Scott Row with 18 years of service.

Tax and EMS revenue are both approximately 8.4% over budget and projected while salaries remain about 10% under budget even with all the overtime.

The call volume for September was 290, an increase of 10% over 2020 and an increase of 10% on the average of the last three (3) years. The district remains on pace to have 3,400 calls for the year.

Fire inspections continue and outstanding inspection collections continue to improve. Past due certified letters are being sent which is helping to capture the debts. The fee for re-inspection has also been dropped in an attempt to appease business owners.

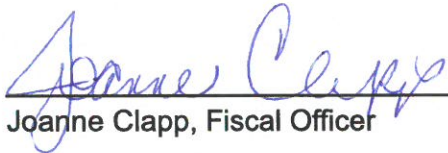
**CLOSING PUBLIC PORTION** - None to report.

**CLOSING BOARD COMMENTS**

Motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss imminent court action @ 8:00 pm by: Mr. Gauntner  
Seconded by: Mr. Lee  
ROLL CALL: All ayes

Regular Session reconvened at 8:45 pm.

Motion to adjourn Regular Session @ 8:45 pm by: Mr. Gauntner  
Seconded by: Mr. Vest  
ROLL CALL: All ayes

  
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Joanne Clapp, Fiscal Officer

  
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Max Anderson, Chairman