

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2012

PRESENT: M. Henry, M. Belensky, W. Miga, K. Miga

NOT PRESENT: B. Dieffenbacher, A. Green

M. Henry says that somehow things have changed regarding our budget. We now seem not to be ending the year with a considerable surplus of money as we had in the past. (Discussion about why this might be). In the past we have always financed our projects and had a surplus at the end of the year, but not any more. M. Belensky said that the EMS is getting difficult to maintain and is not sure if it is worthwhile to replace it due to the decrease in med team response to calls. The whole maintenance budget that was allotted for it has been used up. M. Henry thinks that if we replace the EMS, we should replace it with a multi-use vehicle and possibly drop the Bravo priority calls. W. Miga suggested that if we have another problem with the EMS like the last one that took it out of service for 2 weeks or so, we be not as aggressive about taking money from other areas to get it back in service, given that (1) we've already spent our maintenance budget, and (2) the EMS is not being used as much to respond to calls. Also, as an alternative, if we run into the situation where we need to cover calls without the EMS being in service, that we explore whether we need to redistribute the first-in bags so that we can maximize our response. This discussion was put on hold for the time being.

W. Miga said that with a \$57,000 shortfall (possibly \$60,000 if we need a Genesis upgrade) we cannot afford to have a 0% increase unless the budget can be balanced to show that we do not need an increase. There was a lot of discussion about how to go about bringing the outlook and the budget increase into alignment.

We talked about taking the \$30,000 that is allocated for the roof of Station 2, cutting it in half, and dividing half into other budget lines.

Discussion regarding pushing out the outlook for the apparatus years, balancing safety and technology concerns with what is going to be affordable over the long term. M. Henry and M. Belensky, as the most knowledgeable Board members in this area, will work out the specifics of this.

M. Belensky, W. Miga, and K. Miga believe that we need to ask for a 2% increase. M. Henry will take a look at the budget and try to determine if there are any cuts that can be made in order to reduce or eliminate an increase. At the moment, we do not have enough members present to vote on this issue.

Next year we will start this process in April or May, so that we are not coming down to the wire on this decision again.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE AN E-MAIL VOTE ON THE BUDGET INCREASE PRIOR TO MONDAY.

Respectively submitted, **Karen S. Miga**