

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY

BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2017

PRESENT: W. Miga, R. Bealo, K. Battaglini, C. Hoyt, S. Meschter, A. Fiacco, K. Miga

NOT PRESENT: J. Drotar

Truck financing: Currently outlook savings is not funded until the end of the budget year. We asked Stephan to make sure that there is a 1:1 correspondence between what we have in our savings account and what is in the outlook. So the outlook savings will now be funded at the beginning of the budget year in order for the outlook savings to equal the savings account.

We should keep \$25,000 in reserve for deductibles for Workman's Comp and vehicle insurance.

Available money is \$505,473, minus balloon payment of \$298,608 and deductible amount of \$25,000; we are left with \$181,865. Chris asked if we could use the \$25,000 deductible reserve as part of the down payment and, if the need arises during the year, could we pay the deductible using some other budget line such as "other equipment" or "pagers". We agreed that we will take about \$20,000 of the deductible reserve in order to have a \$200,000 down payment. If more money is needed for deductibles this year, it will come out of the remaining outlook savings items until the \$20,000 is replenished next year.

For annual payments we will have the amount (\$98,000) that has been used for mortgage payments (because we are paying off the mortgage), the amount that we have been saving for rig replacement (\$55,000), and the amounts for the one-time costs of pagers (\$15,000) and new hose (\$9000) in the budget this year. This totals \$177,000. Bob thought that we should set aside \$20,000 per year for the new radio system, although we do not know exactly when the radios will need to be purchased. That leaves us with \$157,000 for annual payments on the new rig.

With a down payment of \$200,000 and \$157,000 available for annual payments, we think that we can get a loan that will be paid off in 4 years. During these 4 years we will not be able to purchase any new vehicles because all of the rig replacement money would be directed to the new rig. Chris does not think that we will need to buy a new vehicle within the next 4 years, so this plan should be viable.

Chris has investigated many loan options and there are only two at about 2.5%, so he will get new payment amounts based on a \$200,000 down payment and a 4-year term.

Stephan reiterated that we need to add \$20,000 to the deductible reserve in 2018 to bring the total to \$25,000.

Alice says that we need to inform the Towns of our decision to purchase the new truck and they will need to have a public hearing. The Towns will then have to approve the loan.

Stephan will send out the final budget by the end of this week.

Physicals: Ken is going to speak to PESH and confirm if physicals need to be performed within a calendar year or date-to-date. This year we will require physicals to be done by the end of May 2017 unless we hear otherwise after Ken talks with PESH. If they are to be done during a calendar year, next year and subsequent years we will require that physicals be done by the end of March. We will no longer require members coming back from a LOA or inactive status without a current physical to have a physical within 2 months; if they are Auxiliary members or firefighters they will simply be unable to participate in the activities of their particular class. They cannot go to calls. They can attend training, but they can only observe. They can attend meetings. At this point we do not have any idea what "participation" means for business members and what should happen if they do not have a current physical; this needs to be addressed during a future meeting.

Leather helmets: Chris said that the only reason that Mark Belensky is still wearing a leather helmet as an assistant chief is because he got it when he became THE chief and it hasn't reached the end of its 10-year safety limit. He said that traditionally members were given leather helmets when they became THE chief and that's it. Since the initiation of the 10-year safety limit on equipment, Besty is the first member to have a leather helmet taken out of service. Based on this information, the decision was that if you do not have a leather helmet provided by the company and you become THE chief, you will get a leather helmet. If your helmet is retired while you are THE chief or if you become THE chief again after your helmet has been taken out of service, you will get another leather helmet to replace the one that was retired. Assistant chiefs will not be provided with leather helmets. Karen asked how we are going to keep track of this, as part of the problem is that new members do not know the unwritten traditions of the department and have to rely on what older members say (often conflicting). Wes said that he thinks we need three types of department documents; policies documents, procedure documents, and practice documents. This would be considered a practice, so we need a practice document for this.

Next board meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2017 at 7 p.m. We will meet in the board room or the TV room because the Boy Scouts are meeting at Station 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Miga