

**CHIPPEWA FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
June 15, 2010**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lehmann at 7:00 p.m. , per ss. 19.84 and 19.85(1)(c) Wis. Stats.

**Secretary Roll Call:** The following members answered 'present': Mr. Steinmetz, Mr. Lehmann, Mr. Solberg, Mr. Rahn, and Mr. Schindler.

**Approve Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Schindler; motion passed by voice vote.

**Recording Secretary:** A motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2010 regular Board meeting as presented was made by Mr. Steinmetz / Mr. Solberg; motion passed by voice vote.

**Financial Report:** Chief Neihart distributed and reviewed the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2010. Chief Neihart explained that line item #2207, Long Term Liabilities on the Balance Sheet (United Bank – Radio Lease: \$51,577.00) payment for this year has been made, leaving this item's amount at \$25,788.90. A motion to accept the report, pay claims, and issue checks was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Steinmetz; motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Account Adjustments:** None

**Public Discussion:** Deputy Chief Smith reported the consensus of Station #1's members regarding a policy for station purchases. He said the members wish to retain use of their station accounts, the right to hold fundraisers and purchase items to help them do their job, and to retain those items at their station (but permit use of the items throughout the District). He also said there might be a cap on discretionary spending, above which the Board would have input. If necessary, the station members would reorganize as an "association", to retain their current privileges.

Deputy Chief Sedlacek reported the sentiment at Station #3 was similar, but there had been no discussion regarding a discretionary spending cap, or forming an association. He said fundraisers promote public support and awareness of the fire department.

Firefighter Syverson stated it's the feeling of Station #6 members that the Board have no control or input over their fundraising or purchasing because the Board doesn't know what is best for the station.

Following discussion, and agreement to have the District's attorney look into firefighters' associations, no further action was taken.

**Old Business: 1) Consider RFP for ambulance chassis** – Chief Neihart reported he had sent the Board copies of a letter form LifeLine regarding 2010 Ford diesel chassis available for \$39,437, plus \$3,500 as a "hold fee"(for 6 months) until the box portion is ordered. He stated a chassis at this price (\$42,937.00) could be paid for from current revenues. Following discussion of available funds, purchasing some equipment separately, and lack of 2011 diesel chassis, a motion to purchase a Ford 2010 E450 chassis from LifeLine for a total of \$42,937.00 was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Solberg; motion passed on a voice vote.

**2) Old Ladder 1 disposition update** - Chief Neihart advised the Board that the Bloomer Fire Department is waiting for the ladder inspection report from Aerial Inspections Company; if it passes, payment will be forthcoming. **3) Request to increase the total accrual of leave time allowed for 24-hour personnel and 8-hour personnel. Hold for review in employee handbook** - This item will remain held over for a future meeting. **4) Review / Approve Audit Report** - A revised draft of the 2009 audit, as prepared by Wipfli LLP, was distributed and reviewed. The paragraph describing the LOSA program had been corrected. Mr. Lehmann said a meeting with the auditors could be arranged, if the Board felt a necessity to do so. A motion to accept the audit draft from Wipfli, LLP, with the noted change to LOSA, was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Lehmann; motion passed by voice vote.

**New Business: 1) Review and approve continuation of inspection agreement with Elk Mound Fire District** - Chief Neihart explained that the Chippewa Fire District currently does the commercial building fire inspections for the Elk Mound Fire District, in return for their 2% dues, and their chief wishes to have assurance that this arrangement will continue under any new chief. A motion to have the Chippewa Fire District continue to conduct the commercial building inspections for the Elk Mound Fire District was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Steinmetz; motion passed by voice vote.

**2) Review and approve salary range for Fire Chief** - Mr. Lehmann stated the Fire Commission needs a salary range for a new fire chief. The range would not include the related benefits. A motion to set the range for a new fire chief at \$52,000 - \$56,000 per year was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Lehmann; motion passed by voice vote. **3) Review and approve filling open paramedic position** - Chief Neihart reported the Fire Commission had given him a list of three candidates to pick from, and, following Board approval, he and the current career paramedics would conduct another interview with the candidates, pick one to fill the open position, and to have them start by July 12. A motion to approve filling the open position was made by Mr. Lehmann / Mr. Solberg; motion passed by voice vote. **4) Review and approve extended vacation policy** – Mr. Lehmann reported the Fire Commission had recommended the Board establish a policy on this issue. He said a policy might allow budgeting to be able to pay the employee a lump sum when they tender their resignation. Following discussion, a motion to accept a departing employee's resignation and pay their accrued leave time, and to establish a budget amount for this was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Solberg; motion passed by voice vote. **5) Review and approve Resolution 2010-03 Check Authorization** - Mr. Lehmann explained the resolution allows the bookkeeper to begin the payroll deposit transaction, and one other Board member to electronically authorized completion of the transaction. A motion to accept Resolution 2010-03 Check Authorization was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Steinmetz; motion passed by voice vote. Chief Neihart clarified that this direct deposit process would cover everyone except those firefighters who get single, smaller amount check for emergency responses.

**Training:** Chief Neihart stated the normal monthly station training continues, but the CVTC classes won't be starting until later in the summer.

**Chief's Report:** **1)** - The Assistance to Firefighters Grant for defibrillators, bunker gear, and a washing machine for the bunker gear has been completed and submitted. Grant recipients will be notified in October or November; if awarded, a 5% match from the District will be needed. **2)** - The DNR grant applications for the equipment necessary to convert the Tank Inspection truck to a brush truck is still in process. The DNR will notify grant recipients in October. **3)** – Another State of Wisconsin grant for replacing radios will be available soon; the District needs to replace the remaining "MaxTrac" and older "Spectra" radios to be in compliance with the Federal narrowband, digital requirements that start in 2012; the number of the current radios to be replaced will be needed to start the process. The last grant of this type was a 75% - 25% grant, with the recipient paying the 25%. **4)** – The District responded to a severe traffic crash a few days ago; mutual aid was requested from the cities of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, and all present did a very good job working together. A Critical Incident Stress Debriefing may be scheduled, if necessary.

**Convene to closed session per 19.85 (1) (c): Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility** - A motion to convene to closed session was made by Mr. Solberg / Mr. Rahn; motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 8:21p.m.

**Reconvene to open session** – A motion to reconvene to open session was made by Mr. Solberg / Mr. Rahn; motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 8:52 p.m. A motion to accept Resolution 2010-04 Accepting Chief Neihart's Retirement was made by Mr. Rahn / Mr. Steinmetz; motion passed by voice vote.

**Board Open Discussion:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Solberg / Mr. Steinmetz; motion passed by voice vote at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted for Approval,

Doug Matthews  
Recording Clerk