

ENDWELL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2016

Members:

Francis J. Pandich, Chairman
George M. Bush, Secretary
Ronald Materese
Andy Anderson

Others present:

Thomas Palazzo, Asst. Chief
Kevin Leniek
Robert Brady
Anthony Fiacco, Treasurer
Erika Pereira, Administrative Assistant
Alice Fiacco, Executive Assistant
(See list attached)

Chairman Pandich called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET: Chairman Pandich made some preliminary remarks in regard to the budget and some history on the fire district. A sheet of “frequently asked questions” was handed out to those in attendance and has also been posted on our website. While the proposed 2017 budget will result in about a 29% rate increase, this will result in about a \$35.71 tax increase on a home valued at \$100,000. For the last 30 years all major purchases have been done via bonds which has resulted in a lot of interest payments. The board is trying to shift to capital reserve funds in order to have funding for major apparatus and fire equipment purchases and to reduce costs by going to cash purchases rather than paying interest. For example, in 1990 a bond was issued to pay for station #1 renovations. The amount of the bond was \$1.9 million, additionally \$1.5 million in interest was paid. By going to capital reserve funds and paying cash, there will be a huge savings.

Chairman Pandich asked for questions from the floor:

Resident Joan Stout asked how residents were supposed to know about the amount of the budget and tax increase. Chairman Pandich advised that the fire district had complied with all requirements to post the budget by posting the 2017 budget information on the fire district website and a legal notice in the newspaper. Copies were also sent to the Town of Union and the Town was requested to post these on their website and bulletin board and have copies available for residents to request.

Dave Thomas: Asked about plans for any long term projects that may come up in the next 5 years. Board members indicate that the only big project they are looking at over the next 5 years or more is replacement of station #3. There have been some structural issues there and currently we are looking to have a facility assessment done to determine what should be done.

Eric Corwin: He felt that board members were on the right path but asked about the cost of the new engine. Board members advised the cost of the new pumper was about \$566,980. He also asked about the cost of the new rescue. The cost with some new equipment was about \$800,000. Mr. Corwin also asked about competitive bidding on the vehicles. Both vehicles were purchased by “piggybacking” on to purchasing contracts of other municipalities, something which was recently approved by the State Comptroller.

Adam Holton: Asked if the board had looked at any cost saving ideas. Board members advised that they recently had a study done by PSSI and only a couple ideas had come out of the study. One to close station #2. This idea is still under consideration, though keeping this station open, really does not cost the fire district a lot.

Minutes- Endwell Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting - October 18, 2016

The other idea that PSSI suggested was having the fire district hire a full-time mechanic and offering his services to other fire districts at a cost. Board members have discussed this idea, but feel there is too much risk involved. We would have to put out money to hire, train, purchase tools, etc. and there was no guarantee other fire companies would be willing to share in the costs of such an expensive venture.

There was a question about the \$85,000 in salaries: The district has 1 full time executive assistant and three part-time employees- an administrative assistant, janitor and treasurer.

Jeff Hoskins: He understood what the board was doing. Even though this would result in savings in the future, he felt that tax rates never go down. If anything they might only level off. He felt the 28% increase should be staggered over several years to prevent such a large one year increase.

Mike Bessette: He appreciated the fact that the fire district had excellent equipment but asked if there were plans to replace the tower which is now over 25 years old. Now that we have the quint is this necessary? Board members said this is something they had discussed but have not made any decision about whether the tower would be replaced in the near future. Mr. Bessette also indicated he felt it would be better to spread the large tax increase over several years to have less impact on the tax payer.

Eric Corwin asked how many people respond from station #3: They said we have a lot of people in that area, normally 10-12 people turn out for calls at that station.

As there were no more comments the public hearing was closed at 7 pm. Board members said they would consider all comments and would hold a special meeting to make a final decision on the budget.

Motion by Member Anderson, second by Member Materese to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting. All aye; motion carried.

Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Battaglini to approve the Treasurer's Report. All aye; motion carried. The Treasurer advised that all funds (with the exception of perhaps a few cents interest) from the 2014 bond fund have been expended and this account will be closed.

Hearing of Visitors: Matt Grafton gave an update on the Truck or Treat Halloween event to be held on Monday, October 31, 6:30-8:30 pm. :

- Candy and Halloween decorations have been purchased.
- There will be fire safety information and demonstrations, games and the Masons will be doing free child Ids.
- There will also be a 50/50 raffle.
- Flyers have gone out to all the children at Homer Brink and Future Faces.
- Grey Goose Graphics has done a video and we will be sending out a constant contact message.
- Posters have also been distributed to advertise this.

We have been working with Grey Goose Graphics for the past few months. They have been doing monthly videos which have had from 2,500-6,000 views. Members are encouraged to make suggestions about things for videos and the website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Bathroom remodeling: No report.

Minutes- Endwell Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting - October 18, 2016

2. Endicott Water: We will send them a letter about hydrants.
3. Station #3 Feasability Assessment: Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Battaglini to award the grant to Delta Engineering at a cost of \$5900 per their proposal. 3 aye (Battaglini, Bush, Pandich); 2 nay (Anderson, Materese). Motion carried.
4. Deputy Treasurer: Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Materese to appoint Alison Senft as the Deputy Treasurer. All aye; motion carried. The Treasurer will meet with her and get her name on the accounts and get her acquainted with our records.
5. CO alarms: We are waiting on the installation of the new routers.
6. Alarm system wiring: Member Anderson has been talking with National Cable about getting some of this removed.
7. Fix parking lot cracks: We are waiting on vendors to give us a quote.
8. Add security cameras: Stations 2 & 3: Motion by Member Anderson, second by Member Battaglini to add two cameras at station #2 for \$3,095.00 and four cameras at station #2 for \$7,295.00. All aye; motion carried.
9. Discussion of quotes to put in new exterior air intake. Evans quoted \$1,850 but we do not know where they planned to put the intake. Petcosky quoted \$4381 and did quote the air intake to be on the south side of the station.
10. Discussion of replacement of Heat/AC units in the board room. Air Temp has quoted \$5760 plus \$1476 to replace the unit housings, total cost \$7236. Petcosky quoted \$6972.00 including new housing units for ductless splits that provide both heat and air conditioning. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Anderson to replace the two hvac units with ductless split units for \$6972.00 All aye; motion carried.

New Business:

1. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Anderson to pay bills:
 - Vouchers #10-001 to 10-073 totaling \$75,458.84
 - Bond vouchers #BF10-001 and BF10-002 totaling \$1,584.35All aye; motion carried.
2. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Materese to approve the petty cash and reimburse the fund with \$ 179.97. All aye; motion carried.
3. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Materese to approve the line transfers submitted. All aye; motion carried.
4. Building report:
 - a. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Anderson to have T & B Electric add two light fixtures to the front of the building.
 - b. Motion by Member Battaglini, second by Member Anderson to purchase a third boiler from Air Temp for \$15,906 which includes installation.

Minutes- Endwell Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting - October 18, 2016

5. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Battaglini to approve the following events in the community room:
11/6/16- J. Polovchak, family party, \$200 security deposit
11/20/16 - M.E. Swim Team, Team banquet (\$200 security deposit)
12/4/16 - Jen Lasher, family holiday tea (\$200 security deposit)
1/15/17 - M-E Winterguard, spaghetti dinner fundraiser, \$200 security deposit
All aye; motion carried.

6. Chiefs Report: Discussion of bill for shorted cable on rescue, this should be submitted to Pierce for payment since this came on the truck.
Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Anderson to approve hosting a one day OSHA refresher sponsored by the County Chiefs Association. All aye; motion carried.

Motion by Member Battaglini, second by Member Bush to accept the Chief's Report. All aye; motion carried.

7. Motion by Member Materese, second by Member Battaglini to approve the Support Services Report. All aye; motion carried.

8. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Battaglini to approve the Maintenance Division Report. All aye; motion carried.

9. Motion by Member Materese, second by Member Battaglini to approve the Training Division Report. All aye; motion carried.

10. We received the agenda for the auxiliary meeting. Members felt this should go to the fire company rather than the board.

11. Resolution to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Apparatus with initial deposit of \$141,600: Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Materese to approve. Vote: Pandich- aye; Materese- aye; Bush - aye; Battaglini - aye; Anderson - No. 4 ayes; 1 nay- motion is carried. ;

12. Resolution to establish a capital reserve fund for the purchase of firematic equipment with initial deposit of \$50,000. Motion by Member Battaglini, second by Member Materese. Vote: Pandich- nay; Anderson - Nay; Battaglini - aye Bush - aye, Materese- aye; 3 ayes, 2 nay; motion is carried.

13. Motion by Member Battaglini, second by Member Materese to hold the annual election on Tuesday, December 13, 6pm to 9 pm and to appoint Charlotte Bush as election chairperson and Bonnie Beeman and Joan Simons as tellers. Each to be paid \$35. All aye; motion carried.

14. 2017 budget:. As a result of comments about budget, Member Anderson asked that the final budget vote be postponed. Motion by Member Anderson, second by Member Materese to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, to make a final decision on the 2017 budget. All aye; motion carried.

15. Motion by Member Materese, second by Member Bush to have refreshments at the legal issues class on October 27. All aye; motion carried. Member Bush will make arrangements for this.

Minutes- Endwell Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting - October 18, 2016

16. Motion by Member Materese, second by Member Bush to go into executive session at 8:05 pm to discuss personnel issues.

Out of executive session at 8:30 pm. Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Materese to approve course equivalencies as requested by Robert Holmes to run for Asst. Chief. All aye; motion carried.

Motion by Member Bush, second by Member Battaglini to adjourn at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

George M. Bush
GMB/af

Minutes- Endwell Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting - October 18, 2016

ATTENDEES: PUBLIC HEARING/ BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2016

Mike Battaglini
Jake Polovchak
Jill Stout
Joan Stout
Jerry Stout
John Hussar
Dave Thomas
Matt Lee
Eric Corwin

Mike Bessette
Rob Congdon
Bill Dieffenbacher
Nate Leonard
Bryan Zielger
Jed Whitmarsh