



BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES May 21, 2019

Present:

Board Chairman: David Cummings

Board Member: Charles Moore

Board Member: Karen Flenniken

Fire Chief: Patrick Moore

Assistant Fire Chief: Scott Neal

Administrative Manager: Paula Acker

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Fire Chief Patrick Moore. Chief Moore addressed the Board and provided a memorandum of the tentative process, timeline, revenue based on the current \$3.15 rate, \$3.20 and \$3.25. the memorandum also included expenses, current deficit, COLA increase and Step. A copy of the memorandum will be attached to the official minutes.

Chief Moore explained the capital plan by going over the capital plan spreadsheet that was handed out to the Board. He continued to explain the different pieces of equipment that will be surplus and the timeline involved. He advised the capital portion of the budget is important to plan for major capital acquisition and replacement. He also explained surplus of several staff vehicles which helps with the capital budget, with better fuel usage trying to become more efficient across the Board. Questions from the Board included what mileage do we consider surplus the fleet, Chief Moore stated replacing with a warranty and better gas mileage helps with costs. He also stated replacement of ambulances has helped with service with less breakdowns.

Chief Moore stated he needs to know if the Board is willing to increase the rate and if not have a discussion on the options to reduce programs, benefits or staff. These options are listed on the memorandum provided today. He advised If we're not going to the cap this year than we would probably go to the cap next year. Chairman Cummings stated he has concerns about raising the rate and the overall opinion of the public with the District purchasing (5) new engines and having a Bond. Board Member Petrillo stated she would like to see the breakdown of employee costs

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and programs. She stated we did just get this Bond and she would like to see more information. Board Member Mauzy stated he does not see it as a Bond issue and if we do not raise the tax rate this year it will be more than likely raised next year. Chief Moore stated the pension costs will likely go up next year.

Chief Moore stated in the next few weeks we will be able to look at what we think we will finish the end of the year including ambulance billing, FDAT and property tax. We are hopeful that we will finish the year without going into the contingency. He continued by stating the loss of the intergovernmental agreement with Mohave Valley and Fort Mohave Fire ambulance billing and the increase in PSPRS has resulted in employee positions not being replaced. He stated forecasting long term we have to become more strategic in alternative revenue streams. He advised we have applied for an Ambulance base rate increase of the annual automatic 1.6% and will be partnering with Fort Mohave for a larger increase. He stated we are looking at doing some cost share options with Fort Mohave.

Discussion continued on the proposed expenses and revenue.

Chief Moore stated the hard costs are still being worked within the budget. He explained he will have a better idea over the next week or two what the ending contingency might be. He stated he will prepare a potential step and COLA that the Board can vote on. His suggestion is to do a COLA if he can find it in the budget to do so. He explained by funding a capital payment, some will be spent on needed ambulances, vehicles and security systems. The left over money will be left in the fund for future savings which eventually will keep us from using warrants at the beginning of each FY.

Chief Moore stated he will submit options for rates to the Board for next Tuesday's meeting which will give an idea of what the bottom line is to work with.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Recorded by,



Paula Acker
Administrative Manager

Approved by,



David C. Cummings, Chairman
Fire District Board



Charles Moore, Board Clerk
Fire District Board

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