

Medford Area Fire Commission

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Medford Fire Hall

844 W. Broadway Ave., Medford Wis.

Call to order: Chairman Kropp called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Lewis, Vach, Schmidt, Deml, Sromek, Kropp, Frischman, Virnig, Koester, Mueller, Parent and Hedland. Present Chief Filas, ex-officio twelve members present.

Members absent: Leonard and Johnson

Open Meeting Compliance. This is an open meeting of the Medford Area Fire Commission. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper the Star News and all news media that have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Visitors: Christianson and Brian Wilson, representing the Star News.

Citizens and Delegations: Commissioner Schmidt, representing the Town of Medford requested an addition to our agenda to discuss the addition of another representative from the Town of Medford. Parent motioned that it was reasonable to attach this to our agenda for discussion, it will be discussed under # 9, labeled 9 a. Motion was seconded by Deml. Ayes, motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF THE December 19, 2018 minutes:

5.1 Motion made by Lewis, seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented and placed on file. All ayes, motion carried.

Note: Prior to approval of the minutes it was noted that the posting of the agenda showed the minutes to be from December 20, 2018, it was corrected to show that the minutes were from the meeting held on December 19, 2018.

6. Approval of the treasurers quarterly report;

6.1 . Motion made by Parent, seconded by Hedlund to approve the Treasurers report. All ayes motion carried.

7. Discussion/Action Elections: Chairman Kropp called for nominations for Chairman: Deml was nominated, immediately declined nomination. Second call, Frischman nominated Lewis, nomination seconded by Sromek. After third call for nominations, Parent moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Lewis. All ayes, motion carried. Chair Kropp vacated the seat and Chair Lewis presided at the rest of the meeting. Chair Lewis called for nomination for Vice Chair. Parent nominated Kropp, seconded by Schmidt, after third call for nominations Parent motioned that a unanimous ballot be called for Vice Chair Kropp. All Ayes, motion carried.

Appointment of Secretary: Chair Lewis appointed Parent to serve as Secretary of the Medford Area Fire Commission.

8. Discussion/action Fire Department wages. Chief Filas brought up the adjustment of wages for the Firemen. Present wages are \$15.00/hr. for fire calls, drills and meetings. Incident command receives \$18.00/hr. Fire Chief wages are 5000/year, with their Secretary paid \$2500/year. Commissioner Koester questioned Chief Filas about approximate hours spent/week on his duties, he indicated about 10 hrs./week. Discussion ensued on gathering statistics regarding wages paid to volunteer fireman in our area. It was decided that Chair Lewis will meet with the Fireman at their next meeting, to discuss wages etc., and bring back to our June meeting recommendations, with budgeting proposals outlined. Any recommendations that are agreed upon will be budgeted in the 2020 budget. Our preliminary budgeting will start in June of 2019 to create the budget for 2020.

9. Discussion/action: SCBA Equipment: This had been ongoing discussion, because we need to keep this equipment up to date as some of the equipment has life expectancies of 10-15 years.. Each SCBA unit costs approximately \$6500 dollars. Chief Filas in 2018 wrote a grant of \$220,000 to cover the cost of the new gear; he expects to hear sometime in April of 2019 if the application has been approved. Chair Lewis discussed creating an account and budgeting yearly for replacement of gear that is necessary to remain in compliance with regulatory rules, as outlined by the State of Wisconsin. Chief Filas seeks to replace #16 SCBA gear next year.. Discussion will continue and members will be updated quarterly.

9: a.: The agenda was adjusted to allow Commissioner Schmidt to bring forth his request to the Commission members. He is requesting that the representation from the Town of Medford, be increased from two Commissioners to three Commissioners. His recommendation for the increase was presented with statistics regarding equalized value and his reasoning to have uneven numbers for voting purposes. After discussion, motion was made by Parent seconded by Virnig to continue discussion of the request for the new appointment, with the addition of a new Commissioner, to represent the Town of Medford, contingent upon amending the bylaws of the Medford Area Fire Department Joint Ownership

and Service Agreement. The City of Medford will be notified to place on their agenda to amend Article II, section 2.02 to read the Commission shall consist of fifteen commissioners, three from the town of Medford. After the City of Medford amends the agreement, all participating municipalities will be required to do the same. Roll call: Ayes; Hedland, Parent, Mueller, Koester, Virnig, Frischman, Kropp, Sromek, Deml, Schmidt, Vach and Lewis. All ayes motion carried.

10. Discussion/update new fire truck and sale of old trucks: Chief Filas informed the Commission that the 350 Fire Truck was sold for \$9975 and he expected the bidding on the 305 to be completed tomorrow. All funds from the sale of this truck will be put into the Vehicle Replacement Fund..

11. Discussion/action Wildland Fire Fighting.

11.1 Chair Lewis turned this over to Commissioner Mueller who is an employee of the DNR. Mueller explained to the Commission that in the case of a wildfire, once it is called into 911, dispatch also calls the Medford Fire Department. The Medford Fire Department will then be notified if there is need for their assistance.

Discussion: 2020 Budget recommendations;

The preliminary budget for 2020 will be presented for preliminary approval by the Commission at the meeting on June 19. Recommendations will be forthcoming as to wage increases, budgeting for equipment necessary to remain in compliance as per rules governing fire departments. Chief Filas will be recommending a 2.5 % increase for the vehicle Replacement fund for 2020.

Items for June Agenda. 1. Presentation of preliminary budget for 2020.

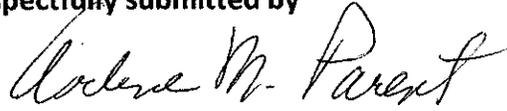
2. Approval of the Town of Medford's request to have their representation increased to three representatives.

Prior to adjournment Commissioner Kropp reported that he had received donations from Kwik Trip and Dixon Greiner Realty to help defray the costs of the recently purchased Fire Truck. Brian Wilson, and Clarence Kropp will meet with these businesses to formally thank them for their generous contribution. Abby Bank had previously offered their sign to alert our community that donations would be well received to help defray the costs of the recently purchased fire truck, so Kropp and Wilson will also meet at the bank to formulate the verbiage on the sign.

Next scheduled meeting: June 19, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

**Adjournment: Motion by Sromek, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. ,
all ayes, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene M. Parent". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted by".

Arlene M. Parent

Secretary of the Medford Area Fire Commission