

Approved 03/12/09

Exeter Fire District

(Budget Hearing - February 19, 2009)

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Peter Wilbur called the February 19, 2009 budget hearing to order at 7:03pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Wilbur, Gallagher Walker, Aker and Nievera. The district treasurer, Ms. Caito, was also present. There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

Budget Hearing

Mr. Wilbur asked each of the public safety organizations to give a short (approx. 2 to 3 minutes each) presentation on their respective budgets. All questions would be held until the end of the last presentation.

Joe Conroy (Treasurer, EVFD #1) was available to answer any questions concerning EVFD #1's budget request. In the recent past they have taken delivery on a new engine which utilizes a CAFS (compressed air foam system) device. The CAFS added a bit to the purchase price of the new engine, but it has enabled them to retire one of their tanker trucks with no plans to replace it. A replacement tanker would cost between \$250k and \$300k. Additionally this will

result in insurance, maintenance and fuel savings with one less truck on the road. Mr. Conroy noted that the maintenance line item should be sufficient to cover any normal repairs to his fleet. EVFD#1 budget request was unchanged from that of last year.

Bob Franklin (Chief, EVFC #2) was on hand to explain the request made by Station #2. He said that his budgetary committee had examined all aspects of their organization with an eye toward submitting the smallest increase possible. EVFC#2 budget request reflects a decrease of 0.5%.

Tom Caito (Chief, Exeter Rescue Corps) represented the Exeter Rescue Corps. He estimated a 10% decrease in billing income due to a decrease in payments from Exeter residents and the inability to bill clients from the Phoenix House as well as Job Corps. He also noted that his salary line item was contractual and that upon the departure of one employee a replacement was not hired. Instead, they are currently filling those hours on a per diem basis, negating the need for benefits. Mr. Nievera asked the cost of their new vehicle. Mr. Caito responded that they spent approximately \$90k because they had acted on a special opportunity whereas, had they waited, the cost to replace the old rescue vehicle would approach \$130k. The decrease in his vehicle maintenance line item reflects the purchase of a new vehicle. The Exeter Rescue Corps request reflects an increase of 2.2%.

Dennis Colacone (Treasurer, EEDC) was on hand to explain their budget. With little exception, the majority of the EEDC budget increase is to bring their dispatchers one step closer to parity with

their peers, said Mr. Colacone. This budget will allow the dispatch corporation to grant a 9% increase in salary bringing the employees to within \$2.00 of their peers. It will also necessitate the dispatchers to co-pay 10% of their health care premiums. He additionally stated that the dispatch center had recently completed construction on a radio tower in the Escoheag section of town. He singled out Chiefs Franklin and Kettelle for their time and labor, saving the taxpayers of the district several thousand dollars on site preparation costs. The final cost of the project was between \$35k and \$37k. Mr. Colacone also stated that the increase in his insurance line item was necessary for the additional coverage for their new tower and equipment. The EEDC budget request reflects and increase of 2.7%.

Mr. Wilbur reported that the apparent increase in the administrative budget was due to the reporting of costs and income relative to the tax sale to be held in June. He also stated that a 3% increase in salary has been included for the district collector. The EFD administrative budget reflects an increase of 0.8%.

Public Comment and Questions

Dan Patterson asked each of the fire companies to furnish the amount in their individual truck replacement funds. Mr. Conroy reported \$109,250 and Mr. Henderson, \$107,245. He also asked if those funds were necessary. Mr. Henderson reported that they were and gave an example of underfunding that type of an account for a year. There were no other comments or questions on the budgetary

requests.

Mr. Lacouture, once again, congratulated all on the job done on the requests for this year.

Mr. Aker moved (Mr. Nievera second) closing the budget hearing at 7:23pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk
Exeter Fire District

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Exeter Fire District
(February 19, 2009)
Call to Order

Following the conclusion of the budget hearing, the Board of Commissioners held their February meeting. Chairman Peter Lacouture called the February meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:23pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Wilbur, Walker, Gallagher, Aker and Nievera. District treasurer, Ms. Caito was in attendance. There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Old Business

Mr. Nievera reported that he did not have a delinquency report ready for the board because of the proximity of the meeting falling so close to the end of a collection period, as well as the time spent preparing records to be transferred to RI Tax Title for the upcoming tax sale. He will have a report circulated by the end of the month, in time for the March meeting. Mr. Nievera also reported that there had been only one response to the advertisement for a moderator for the annual meeting. This matter will be addressed during the March meeting of the commissioners.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Exeter Fire District, Board of Commissioners will be held on March 12, 2009 at the Exeter Public Library. The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

**Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) adjournment at 7:27pm.
The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

Exeter Fire District