

Approved 03/10/2011

Exeter Fire District

(Budget Hearing - February 24, 2011)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the February 24, 2011 budget hearing to order at 7:16pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Gallagher, Slater and Nievera. The district treasurer, Ms. Caito, was also present. There were 18 members of the public in attendance.

Budget Hearing

Mr. Lacouture gave a brief presentation of the district administrative budget request. He stated that the 1.4% increase in the administrative budget reflected a dollar increase of \$319.00. He also stated that a 3% increase in salary has been included for the district collector. The EFD administrative budget reflects an increase of 1.4%.

Joe Conroy (Treasurer, EVFD #1) was available to answer any questions concerning EVFD #1's budget request. Dan Patterson inquired about the \$70K line item for a "vent system". Mr. Conroy explained that it was a system to vent vehicle exhaust from stations 1 & 4 and that it was being funded with grant money. The fire department is responsible for \$2,500.00 of the total cost. EVFD#1

budget request reflects a 6.6% increase and will require a 2/3 majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

Bob Franklin (Chief, EVFC #2) was on hand to explain the request made by Station #2. He said that his budgetary committee worked to keep their increase to a minimum. He stated that his fire company would see a decrease in tower rental revenue this year. EVFC#2 budget request reflects an increase of 2.8%.

Jack Kliever (Exeter Rescue Corps) represented the Exeter Rescue Corps. He stated that their proposed increase in salary would bring the average pay rate from \$16.36 to \$17.22, still below that of neighboring towns. The Rescue Corps expects to receive more in billing income because of a change in billing companies. Mr. Kliever was asked if his organization received any state funds for runs to the Phoenix House or the Job Corps facility. He stated that they did not. The Exeter Rescue Corps request reflects an increase of 4.9%.

Dennis Colacone (Treasurer, EEDC) was on hand to explain their budget. With little exception, the majority of the EEDC budget is salary driven. Mr. Colacone is expecting an increase of 9.6% in the health care coverage for his employees after a sizeable increase last year. The EEDC budget request reflects an increase of 9.6% and will require a 2/3 majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

Public Comment and Questions

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Mr. Nievera offered a recommendation to the board of Commissioners. He recommended increasing the projected abatement line item to \$4,000 from \$2,500. He further recommended returning the sum of \$15,000 to the taxpayers in the form of a reduction in taxes. Acceptance of these recommendations will cause a 4.7% increase (rather than a 6.0% increase) in the 2011/2012 district budget. This will be discussed during the March meeting.

Mr. Lacouture thanked all for their work on this year's budget.

The next regular meeting of the Exeter Fire District, Board of Commissioners will be held on March 10, 2011 at the Exeter Public Library. The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Slater second) closing the budget hearing at 7:55pm. The motion carried unanimously.

With nothing on the agenda requiring immediate attention, Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Slater second) tabling the agenda for the February business meeting until March. That motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

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