WCFD Board Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes

Date : August 1, 2024
Location: Training Room – 11321 Aboite Center Rd Ft Wayne, IN 46818

Attendees
Garry Teeguarden
Chuck Dwyer
Lance Dafforn
Chandler Branning
Mike Meyers
Other- Chief Gale Stelzer, Chris Perez

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance 6:00pm
2. C Perez addressed questions from the July 25, 2024 Meeting
    a) Is the location the best to cover the area for the money being spent ? **Yes, it is in the center of the district in a high population area, other county officials believe it is a good place**

    b) Does the $9 million include the cost of the land? Will other trucks, ambulances, be purchased and is the cost included in the 9 million ? **$9m includes the cost of the land but not apparatus**
    c) Why can't we improve the Arcola and Aboite stations (for staffing), what is being done to improve these stations regarding staffing (manpower) and personnel and their safety? **There are various reasons, including the age of the buildings, cost of retrofitting clean air systems, Arcola is land-locked and cannot accommodate our needs, the Aboite station is owned by township, not the district**
    d) How can tax neutral be guaranteed when the district budget is barely a year old? (How can it be achieved?) **Tax rate neutral is the GOAL, <u>not</u> a guarantee. Some of the budget areas that were difficult to predict when creating the 2024 budget included employee benefits, insurance costs, repairs/maintenance to inherited building and equipment. As we move through 2024 we know what our employee benefits costs are, we know the cost of our insurance premiums, all inherited equipment has been inspected and, if possible, repaired. We also have historic financial data from operating as Aboite Fire/EMS to assist in the budgeting process.**

    Also want to share that our average response time, from dispatch to on-scene, from both stations, is 6 minutes 9 seconds. That is well below NFPA Standard 1710 which calls for a benchmark goal of 9 minutes for Priority 1 calls.

3. G Teeguarden explained that tonight the Board will vote on the resolution to enter into the bond agreement for financing on the new station construction project
4. Anekah Synikin of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors presented the bond information
5. Public Hearing opened
    a) T. Knitter: reminded Board that L Dafforn agreed to 2024 budget but stated that he wanted the 2025 to be lower
    b) Mark Butts: discussed run times, trains, and wants money spent on manpower, not stations
    c) Andrew Frazier: wants more manpower and curious about volunteer numbers

d) Mike Yost: shared opinion that a location in a neighborhood is not a good place for a fire station
e) Sandy Trimmer: against location of new station
f) George Strek: pointed out that nobody has spoken in favor of new station
g) Charlie Seifert: stated that other stations have been built for less money

6. G Teeguarden called for vote on Resolution on Bonding Agreement – 3 in favor (GT, CD,MM) and 2 not in favor (LD, CB)
7. Meeting adjourned