



AGENDA ITEM #7

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report Prepared by: Angie Duus

Date: April 7, 2020

Subject: Fire Report

Report: Attached is the July 2020 Fire Department Operations Report and the August 12, 2020 Fire Board Special Meeting minutes.

Council Action Requested: No Council action requested.

PEQUOT LAKES FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATIONS REPORT
JULY 2020

Fire Calls : 10 calls

DATE	TYPE OF CALL	LOCATION	BILLING
07/02/20	OLD HOUSE FIRE, HAD BURN PERMIT	LOON LAKE TOWNSHIP	N/A
07/02/20	GRASS FIRE	BREEZY POINT	N/A
07/07/20	TEMPERATURE ALERT ALARM	PEQUOT LAKES	N/A
07/08/20	STRUCTURE FIRE, LIGHTNING STRIKE	BREEZY POINT	N/A
07/09/20	STRUCTURE FIRE, LIGHTNING STRIKE	PEQUOT LAKES	N/A
07/12/20	CAR IN LAKE, CANCELLED IN ROUTE	PEQUOT LAKES	N/A
07/14/20	PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENT, FREE BODY FROM SEMI ROLL OVER	POPLAR TOWNSHIP	N/A
07/17/20	MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT, ASSIST POLICE	PEQUOT LAKES	N/A
07/20/20	SMOKE ALARM IN STRUCTURE	BREEZY POINT	N/A
07/26/20	CO DETECTOR GOING OFF IN RENTAL	BREEZY POINT	N/A

Training: 6 hours

DATE	HOURS	TYPE OF TRAINING	INSTRUCTOR
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07/15/20	3	CAPTAINS CHOICE AUTO EXTRICATION, HAND TOOLS, ROPES	FIRE CAPTAINS
07/31/20	3	CAPTAINS CHOICE, DRIVING,PUMP	FIRE CAPTAINS

PEQUOT LAKES AREA FIRE BOARD

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING 8-12-2020

The special meeting of the PLAFB was called to order by Chairman Peterson. Members were thanked for attending our meeting with such a short notice.

Chief Nelson reported the purpose of the special meeting was to inform Fire Board members of a lack of capital equipment funding he is experiencing when planning budget needs for fire trucks. Currently he is basing replacement costs for these trucks using a 30 year replacement plan. He introduced a detailed list of our Department's trucks starting with the oldest which need replacement as soon as possible. Also on this list were a list of major equipment including info of life expectancy and expected replacement year. He explained the City's current Capital improvement plan (CIP) that began with 2014 when our current Engine 3 was purchased using a 10 year lease to purchase. A \$30,000.00 payment is applied every year thru 2024. Our 2021 proposed budget needs are \$70,000 to replace Tanker 3 that is 37 years old. Normal costs for a tanker are in a range of \$230,000.00 to \$270,000.00. Fire Department Chiefs have been searching for a reliable used tanker to get by for less money. Good used tanker trucks are impossible to find. Chief Nelson proposed purchasing a 2009 DNR surplus truck and contracting with a company to update the truck chassis with newer style emergency lights and other equipment and also to use the water tank from our current Tanker 3. The estimated cost to purchase the chassis and transfer the water tank with needed updates is \$70,000.00. The current Covid-19 epidemic has halted progress for this plan.

Chief Nelson asked Fire Board members for their support concerning funding plans before he meets with City council members next week.

Administrator Wussow (Breezy Point) asked how much of Breezy Point's contract payment actually applied to our budget's debt. The answer was about 25 %. He went on to state our Department is looking at approximately \$800,000.00 needed funds over the next three years and we currently have \$37,000.00 to \$45,000.00 available.

Council member Westerberg (Pelican Township) asked about the fact that 30% of our budget goes to our firemen's pension fund and made a comparison to his township's other fire contract with Nisswa and only 3% of that payment goes to pensions. Chief Nelson reply was the pension costs is a valuable asset in retaining fire fighters. He would like to lower the percentage that goes to pensions.

Mayor Lillehei (Breezy Point) thoughts were the City (Pequot Lakes) has to substantially contribute to the needs along with all contracted areas by developing a plan.

Board member Dubay (Jenkins Township) explained his thoughts were the City (Pequot Lakes) needs to prioritize what trucks/equipment will need to be replaced first by planning a schedule.

Administrator Wussow (Breezy Point) suggested the City (Pequot Lakes) needs to establish a financial plan to get through the crisis. His thoughts were there is an actual dollar shortage in the \$92,000.00 to \$100,000.00 range per year.

Board member Ryan (Loon Lake Township) commented the City (Pequot Lakes) may have to allocate funds from other departments to help the fire fund. Board member Dubay (Jenkins Township) agreed.

Board member Benson (Moose Lake Township) thought changing our fire contracts from one year to two (or more) years could help planning budgets.

Board member Westerberg (Pelican Township) thought 5 year contracts could assure dollar needs on a longer term basis.

Mayor Lillehei (Breezy Point) expressed a good solid financial plan is needed.

Administrator Wussow (Breezy Point) pointed out our fire contracts with cities and townships is not what it actually states the relief portion is .01 percent of the market building value and does not say the total is averaged over 10 years. That should be corrected on the next contract.

Board member Bartels (Poplar Township) thought we need actual dollar numbers for contract costs to make things work out.

Mayor Lillehei (Breezy Point) made a motion "the Fire Board, which is made up of all the contracted Cities and Townships with the City of Pequot Lakes asks that the City of Pequot Lakes review the 30 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and inform us on how the City Council [plans to address the potential short fall that is projected". The motion was seconded by Board member Ryan (Loon Lake Township). There were no other questions or comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Peterson commented he has experienced financial shortages during his career and they were all resolved eventually.

Chief Nelson informed the Board he has been working with the National Safety Council to use their expertise to help save fire prevention cost. They send letters to local businesses asking for donations to fund fire prevention programs at local schools.

The meeting was declared adjourned.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Gary Hart, John Benson, Mike Dubay, Randy Ryan, Tom Lillehei, Patrick Wussow, Tom Nelson, Bob Peterson, Bruce Westerberg, & Craig Bartels