

**Town of Menasha Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
Fire Department Ad Hoc Committee Report
Fire Station #40 - 1326 Cold Spring Road - Thursday, August 21, 2008 - 5:30 pm**

Minutes

Present: Chairman Tews, Supervisor Gerhart, Supervisor Hanson, Supervisor Ziegler and Supervisor Youngquist

Also Present: Administrator Sturgell, Fire Chief Kiesow, Deputy Chief Phillips, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Jentz, Finance Director Piergrossi, Admin. Asst./Human Resources Coordinator Burrill, Barb Knaack, Melvin Schultz, Mike Dillon, Kris Koepe, Scott LeFevre, Margaret Drawenek, Martha Andrew, Sam Van Lieshout, Joe Nemecek, Mike Allcox, A.J. Plach, Ryan Voldness, Timothy Cemar, Dale McNamee, Jay Schroeder, Josh Woodside, Pat Dobberke, Kaile Hintz, Guy Hegg, Lisa Howard, Marcy Ziepke, William Ottow, David McFadden, Todd Sweeney, Kelly Sweeney

Chairman Tews called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Kiesow announced where the emergency exits and restrooms were located. He also gave instructions on what to do in the event of a fire call and reminded those present to sign-in and pick up the handouts.

Chairman Tews introduced ad hoc committee member, David McFadden who began the PowerPoint presentation and stated that questions would be taken at the end of the presentation.

Mr. McFadden then introduced the ad hoc committee members Bill Ottow, Mike Dillon, Kris Koepe, Supervisor Greg Ziegler, Pat Thiel, Linda Wiese, Firefighter Mike Tedford, Lt. Mark Hesselman, Lt. Lane Pingel, Lt. Steve Malsavage, Firefighter Ed Wiese and Firefighter Jesse Pickett.

Mr. McFadden also introduced the ad hoc committee support members Dale McNamee, Fire Chief Kiesow, Deputy Chief Phillips and Fire and Life Safety Educator Jentz. He expressed his appreciation and thanked them for their assistance.

The committee recommended to add 11 full-time firefighters to accomplish the goal of improving fire department response times to 4-6 minutes 90% of the time with four firefighters on scene. He then presented several slides which showed average turnout time/response times from 2001-2007. He further explained that turnout time is the time it takes beginning when a page goes out until the firefighters arrive at the station and response time is the time it takes once they leave the station until they arrive on scene.

A video titled "Fire Power" was shown which demonstrated how fast a fire and smoke can spread throughout a typical home.

After the video, Mr. McFadden continued the PowerPoint presentation which included citing the benefits which could be derived from implementing the committee's proposal, courses of action, cost considerations, cost assumptions and financial impact. The financial impact of staffing one station (24/7/365) with four firefighters per shift (combination of full-time and paid-on-call) would be a levy increase of \$0.69 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The financial impact of staffing two stations (24/7/365) with four firefighters per shift (combination of full-time and paid-on-call) would be a levy increase of \$1.07 per \$1,000 of assessed value. He then compared the Town of Menasha Fire budget with our neighboring municipalities (Menasha,

Neenah, Appleton, Kaukauna, and Grand Chute). The Town of Menasha currently has the lowest cost per capita for fire services and even if we implemented the higher cost proposal of staffing two stations, the projected cost per capita would be below Menasha, Neenah and slightly higher than Appleton.

The committee's plan for implementation includes a budget/levy limit override through a referendum on the November ballot. To accomplish this goal, there would be a resolution brought forth at the next Town Board meeting and then Chief Kiesow would work with the Town Clerk and Town Attorney to prepare the wording for the referendum question. There would be an aggressive information campaign to educate our residents so the residents can determine the level of service they desire.

Chairman Tews thanked the committee for its energy and effort. Chairman Tews then stated he would first take questions from the Board followed by questions from the audience.

A question and answer period commenced. Chairman Tews stated there will be a report given at the Town Board Meeting on Monday August 25, so it will be on television.

Motion Youngquist/Hanson to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Burrill, Recorder