

MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 21, 2024

The Manhattan Fire Protection District held its meeting at Manhattan Fire Station #81. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Trustee's present were Bill Moncrief, Larry Goodwin, Bill Weber, Nick Kotchou, and Brian Hupe. Trustee' absent were Bob Davis and Bill Osborne. Fire Department personnel present were Chief Steve Malone, Deputy Chief Dave Piper, Battalion Chief Bruce Boyle and Admin Asst. Kim Ingram. Also in attendance was James Howard, Governmental Accounting (Zoom), Attorney John Motylinski and Stephanie Irvine, Vedette reporter.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Weber, seconded by Kotchou to approve the minutes from September 23, 2024.
Motion Carries.

Treasurers Report & Bills

District Financial Status

James Howard, Governmental Accounting, discussed the 9-month financial analysis. Revenus and expenditures were discussed. Replacement taxes are down amongst all districts. Interest rates might be coming down. Ambulance fees are down because we made a Gemt payment for the previous 12-month period. Discussed expenditures and future capital expenses.

MOTION by Kotchou, seconded by Goodwin to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented. **Motion Carries.**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Determination of Levy

Accountant James Howard, Gov Accounting, presented information regarding the 2024 proposed tax levy. 76% of our revenue is property taxes, we want to capture what we can, but are capped back to 5%. He discussed the new growth within the district and the increase in valuation with PTELL to capture 6.004% , this will need to be published. Tax rates did not increase for

residents and stayed the same as last year at .9398. This is the consolidated levy with both districts combined and a larger tax base.

MOTION by Hupe, seconded by Weber to approve the tax levy at 6.004% and will require a truth and taxation hearing. **Motion Carries**

Draft Operational Budget

Chief Malone presented the draft budget. He discussed revenue, expenses and various line items including a few that still need to be adjusted. We are still waiting on the \$250,000 from the State of Illinois and the ARPA grant for \$500,000.00. These should be received early 2025 after our audits are finalized. Other revenue will include contract income from the Village of Manhattan and the Park District. Our department Health Insurance increased 7% overall. As a result of researching IT and telephone vendors for competitive pricing, we will have an approximate savings of 50% on our phone budget, and \$25,000.00 on our IT budget. After working with the accountant, we determined that various capital projects will be prioritized and complete with the remainder of this years 2024 capital funds budget. He also discussed the future vision of the department, staffing and promotions.

MOTION by Kotchou, seconded by Weber to approve the 2025 Operational budget. **Motion Carries.**

Peotone FPD FY2022 Stump Year Audit

Lauterbach & Amen completed the stump year 8 month Peotone FPD Audit. Per their final report the audit claimed an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion and found no issues. Chief Malone explained the details presented including the ending fund balances and final recommendations.

MOTION by Kotchou, seconded by Weber to accept the Peotone FPD 8 month FYE22 stump year audit report from Lauterbach & Amen. **Motion Carries.**

Chief's Report

- The recent groundbreaking with the Village of Manhattan was a success. We will still have an event in the Spring when we break ground for our new station.
- We had great turn out for the recent swearing in.
- This Friday at Station 83 is the open house from 4-6pm
- Currently on call #2227

Deputy Chief's Report

- Employee annual 1582 physicals are scheduled this month for all full time and part time members. Two visits are required for each person and companies are rotated to accommodate the schedule.
- Discussed recent calls and we have been requesting a helicopter more often. He is looking to streamline this process.

- Call times are about the same as last month. These numbers fluctuate based on travel times.
- Recently 11 members completed a VMO (Vehicle & Machinery Operations) Ops class held in house.
- Received a \$4,800 grant from Enbridge that will be used for extrication gear.

Battalion Chief's Report

- He is working to finalize décor and presentation for the open house.
- Continues to work with solar farm developers regarding needed access to site locations should there be an emergency.
- Working with the County to be an advocate for proper and consistent steps for developers to follow including a check off form that will navigate them through the approval process.

Closed Session

MOTION by Weber, seconded by Kotchou to go into closed session at 4:45pm to discuss personnel and collective bargaining. **Motion Carries.**

MOTION by Hupe, seconded by Goodwin to come out of closed session at 5:11pm. **Motion Carries.**

Adjournment

MOTION by Kotchou, seconded by Weber to adjourn at 5:13pm. **Motion Carries.**