

Draft Copy-Not Approved

Date: 9/26/23

Present: Chairman Sean McHale; Commissioners, Bill Blunden, Norman Barkley; Fire Chief Brian Draper;
Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Putney

Absent: Commissioners Tyler Clemons; Michael Clouch

1. Meeting Opened: Chairman Sean McHale opened the meeting at 6:01PM.
2. Guest Speaker: N/A
3. Public Forum: N/A
4. Approve Minutes: Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Norman Barkley to approve the August meeting minutes with no corrections. No opposed, motion carried.
5. Correspondence: N/A
6. Old Business: (See Approvals)
 - A. Ladder Truck Update – The ladder truck is back in service with a small glitch that will be fixed soon. The total cost for the swivel repair was approx. \$28k and \$10k for service/testing. We will offset the cost from this by using the Repair Reserve fund.
 - B. Drone Project – no update now
 - C. Policy Updates – no update now
 - D. 2024 Budget Proposal – Health insurance was the biggest increase in the budget this year. Brian Draper has been exploring our options to save some money. He reached out to Adam Fuller with Fuller insurance (current carrier) who said health insurance isn't their specialty and would like to have us meet with another company he works with. Adam was going to set up a meeting but it didn't happen in time for the budget meeting. Brian met with John Kamide from One Digital Insurance, who does specialize in health insurance. He gave Brian some different options for plans. Our current plan with the increase would be approximately \$100,459 per year. The Plus Gold plan is a step down from our current plan. It includes a health savings account. Lake Placid Fire District recently went to this same insurance plan. Their village pays 90% of the HSA. \$87,487.00 with this option. Deductible is \$7200.00. Employee contribution rate to remain at 12%. Wages – Spoke with Ernie Prievo, Village of Carthage Trustee, and the Carthage DPW start employees at approx. \$24/hr. Due to turn over of employees they have also added other incentives. Lake Placid Fire Dept., currently have 6 full time employees and 1 part time employee. Their drivers start @ \$18/hour. They have a step scale for pay at 5 years, 10 years and 15 years, but also do pay raises each year (2-3%). Head driver has been their 6 years with a salary of \$72k per year. Their employees all work 40 hour work weeks. Town of Watertown starts their part

time employees @ \$25/hour with no benefits. Our spare drivers are at \$15.45/hour. Brian proposes 3% increase for Brian Draper and Jessica Putney. Matthew Draper and Cole Pacella need to be increased from \$17.92/hour to \$20/hour. Spare drivers at \$20/hour as well.

E. Solar Farm Fire Training – Need to come back to this when more information is obtained.

7. New Business: N/A

8. Finances: (See Financial Approvals)

A. Adjustments – N/A

B. Treasurer's Report- Beginning balance was \$552,165.65 plus \$29.56 interest. Total expenditures for the month including bills and payroll were \$41,477.58 leaving a spendable balance of \$510,717.63. *Reserve Fund Balances:* #1-Turnout Gear \$13,786.97; #2-Pumper \$10,961.43; #3-Repair \$21,862.79; #4-Aerial \$81,079.84; #5-SCBA \$60,175.05.

9. Chief/Head Fire Driver Report: (See Approvals) Looking for approval to pay Bauter & Sons when the sidewalk restoration is finished within the next week.

10. Executive Session: N/A

11. Adjourn: Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Norman Barkley, to adjourn at 7:09PM. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVALS/MOTIONS:

- Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Norman Barkley, to hold a public hearing on October 17th to approve the use of the Repair Reserve Fund for the recent repairs to the ladder truck. No opposed, motion carried.
- Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Norman Barkley, to switch our health insurance provider from Fuller Insurance to One Digital. All in favor, motion carried.
- Motion made by Norman Barkley, seconded by Bill Blunden, to approve the proposed budget as outlined. No opposed, motion carried.
- Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Norman Barkley, to approve the payment to Bauter & Sons for the sidewalk restoration when the work is finished. All in favor, motion carried.

FINANCIAL APPROVALS:

- Motion made by Norman Barkley, seconded by Bill Blunden, to approve the monthly bills, payroll, and line item adjustments as documented and reported by the treasurer and reviewed by the Board. All in favor, motion carried.

Excellus health insurance \$5,392.90 monthly

Guardian Dental Insurance \$169.19 monthly

Jessica Putney, Secretary/Treasurer

Carthage-Wilna Fire District