

Meeting Minutes

Combined meeting: LSCVFD Finance Committee & Operations Committee

Monday, January 25, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Beth Olfelt-Nelson

Attendees:

Richard Bend, Don James, Beth Olfelt-Nelson, Gary Williams, Randy Nelson, Chief Jim Stanley, Deputy Chiefs Rob Corey and Kevin Kirby, Tom Niedzwiecki - Accountant,
Members: Kevin Wahl, Shane Nelson,

Chair Richard Bend called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda:

Discuss District need of a Dive\Medical&Fire boat

Summary:

Operations Committee Chair Don James asked Chief Jim Stanley to take lead in discussing details of this potential purchase. Current equipment for water rescue and response is old and needing replacement. Increased river use is also driving the need. Last year there were more boat fires than structure fires. The funding model for the dive team and water response and rescue is also in review.

New boat would:

- be used for dive\medical and fire response and is intended to be used on the river to meet the needs of LSCVFD
- be housed at either Windmill or Afton Marina per ongoing agreement with the LSCVFD
- replace two aging used boats, (20-30 yrs old) acquired used from the Coast Guard and DNR, that are not ideal for dive\rescue, and, at this time, are difficult to repair due to age and hard to find repair parts
- Allay Sheriff's concern that there isn't a Fire\Rescue boat on the Lower St. Croix. Hudson is purchasing a boat, but doesn't yet have one. Hastings is the nearest boat South. Bayport is nearest boat North. Bayport's boat isn't a dive boat. Even when they do, we have responded as far South as Prescott. Multiple boats are often needed on a scene for safety
- be a reliable updated response vehicle – important safety for river\watercraft users. River traffic is higher than ever per DNR report forwarded by Pete DeCorsey.

Basic boat specs\info:

- Rough cost estimate \$110,000.
- 500 gal per minute pumping capacity, two 150 horse engines, drop down dive door
- Jim will investigate potential discount if Hudson and LSCVFD buy from the same vendor
- Two vendors are being considered. Both make boats that would meet our dept needs.
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Questions:

Q. Can some money from the vehicle replacement fund (not used for Quint purchase) be applied to purchase of 1 new boat?

A. Initial estimates from Jim and applied by Tom to the vehicle replacement funding model look good for supporting this purchase with a 5 yr finance. **Jim was asked to provide more specific bid numbers for next meeting.**

Q. What will dive team use right now for boat calls?

A. Mutual aid

Q. How many months are estimated to build out a fire\rescue boat for LSCVFD?

A. Approximately 6 months

Q. What would costs be for monthly maintenance?

A. Not many if purchased new. Winterizing would be primary cost

Q. Does a Fire\Rescue boat add financial value to our dept, or it just a cost burden?

A. Marinas are tax paying entities to their municipality. We are able to bill for boat fires if owner is non-resident.

Q. Is there any dollar value for the department in selling the old Brush Truck?

A. No dollar value for emergency equipment, but truck itself is worth about 8,000. Jim will bring the offer of sale first to the cities.

FINANCE:

Details related to Dive Team\boat

- Dive team responded to 8 calls in 2020
- Maintenance for dive boat is not broken out separately in the budget, but is part of Gen fund
- Insurance is covered under District budget, training run pay and wage for their lead position comes out of the general fund
- Dive team has been funding their 8,000 dollar annual budget via calendar fundraising (equipment – boats, dive gear, masks, etc.) This amount would be absorbed in future into the district budget

Discussed process of 2022 budget planning ahead.

- Tom will update spreadsheet for 2022 numbers and will share
- Richard will pass procedure binder, to Beth
- Beth Tom and Richard will soon meet for an initial budget meeting once 2020 final numbers reported