



South Area Fire Emergency Response

OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDA OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This regular meeting of the SAFER Board of Directors, composed of a Quorum of members, will convene at SAFER Station #1, 224225 Hummingbird Rd., Wausau, WI on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 18:00.

A. Opening of Session.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Opall at 18:00.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Clerk will take attendance and roll call.

B. Correspondence/Comments from the public on issues or matters which the SAFER Board of Directors has oversight over.

C. Consent Items

(The Consent agenda contains routine items and will be enacted by one motion without separate discussion unless a body member requests an item be removed for separate consideration and vote.)

4. Approval of prior meeting minutes – September 8, 2020.

D. Business Items

5. Discussion and action on Fiscal Agent.
6. Discussion and action on 2021 Capital Budget.
7. Discussion and action on 2021 Operational Budget.
8. Attorney Referral.

E. Staff Reports

9. Report from Fire Chief
10. Report from Deputy Chief

F. Remarks from the Board of Directors to set the next meeting date, as well as discuss items for the next meeting agenda.

G. Adjourn

This notice was revised and posted at the Rib Mountain and Weston Municipal Centers, and on the Village of Weston's website at www.westonwi.gov, and was emailed to local media outlets at least 24 hours prior to above scheduled meeting. A quorum of members from other SAFER District, Town of Rib Mountain, and Village of Weston governmental bodies (boards, commissions, and committees) may attend the above noticed meeting to gather information. No actions will be taken by any other board, commission, or committee of SAFER / Town / Village, aside from the SAFER Board of Directors. Should a quorum of other government bodies be present, this would constitute a meeting pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Bd., 173 Wis.2d 553,494 N.W.2d 408 (1993). Wisconsin State Statutes require all agendas for public meetings be posted in final form, 24 hours prior to the meeting. Any posted agenda is subject to change up until 24 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that meeting or material to be in accessible location or format must contact the Rib Mountain Municipal Center at 715-842-0983, at least 12 hours prior to the meeting so any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request. All items listed above are for discussion and possible action by the body.



**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH AREA FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 @ 18:00

A. Call to Order

The meeting of the South Area Fire and Emergency Response District Board of Directors was called to order at 18:00 by SAFER Chairman Al Opall.

Members Present

Board of Directors – Langenhahn (arrived at 18:02), Maloney, Opall, Schaefer and White were all present. Also present: Town of Rib Mountain – Finance Director Dunbar and Administrator Rhoden (arrived at 19:12); Village of Weston – Administrator Donner; SAFER – Fire Chief Savage, Deputy Fire Chief Finke and BC Mc Bain.

B. Correspondence/Comments from the public on issues related to the SAFER District

None

C. Consent Items

Board of Directors approval of prior meeting minutes from August 12, 2020.

Maloney/Schaefer moved to approve prior meeting minutes from August 12, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Directors approval of vouchers from July 2020.

White/Schaefer moved to approve vouchers from July 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Business Items

Discussion and action on Legal RFP.

- Chief Savage said he didn't have a lot to add from the last meeting.
- Schaefer said we did receive the email.
- Maloney said I think it was 3 years since we had done an RFP, and I know there was some controversy with Wally and Shane. They had a relationship, a friendship and Shane also represented Wally on some personal family matters too. However it was viewed is how it was viewed, so we did an RFP but now Wally is gone. I don't have a relationship with him, but you the board have more of a relationship with Shane, but now in a letter today Lee has left and is going to a different firm. Lee actually called me last week and said he was thinking about it.
- White said Dietrich VanderWaal has represented SAFER in the past, they're not a new service.
- Opall said I have had confidence with Dietrich VanderWaal, for the last couple of years I have had confidence in them eventually reaching the right decision no matter what it was.
- Maloney said what we talked about at our SAFER Board of Directors, we also talked about here (referring to the Village of Weston) and we actually formed the same kind of who gets to go and who gets to do this. So now White came on and got elected and we had that same talk with our Board of Trustees and with the Administrator and staff on that the Administrator in this Village needs to do the attorney stuff along with the President or the majority of the Board. It is almost identical to what the SAFER Board did.
- White said I move to accept the proposal from Dietrich VanderWaal Law Group.
- Schaefer said as a point of order, the other two really aren't qualified to a certain extent. In the letter that we received Dean points out there will be conflicts and so we will have to have a backup. Especially if we don't stay together and stay on the course that I think we are going on and we go a different course we will

definitely need counsel. I don't have a problem with them, we use them ourselves. But please note that conflict, because the conflict is more to the Village of Weston than it is to the Town of Rib Mountain.

- White said any lawyer has code of ethics, they are not going to represent two opposing sides.
- Langenhahn said this has been a concern of mine, Opall and those for about 4 or 5 years. Dietrich VanderWaal represents a lot of other municipalities and we have contracts with a lot of those municipalities. I had always thought there was a conflict, and I know they can excuse themselves, but they talk in the office. We'd have to be foolish not to think that items don't get talked about behind closed doors. So I've always had a concern about that and that's why I didn't second the motion.
- White said if you take a look at Dietrich VanderWaal's proposal on page 4, they talk about conflict and they have an attorney in Merrill and Stevens Point they would turn to in the event of conflict of interest.

Action: White/Langenhahn moved to approve Dietrich VanderWaal's RFP. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and action on Fiscal RFP.

- Schaefer asked, has Weston withdrawn their withdrawal?
- Maloney said, we have not technically. We have gone to every third Monday of the month for our meetings. We have talked about it and I'm sure it will be on the agenda.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Discussion and action on 2021 Budget.

- Chief Savage said it has been a whirlwind of budgeting lately, and as you are all probably aware Kronenwetter is voting tonight about Ambulance Contracts. The budget that I sent out today is an updated budget after we talked with Nicole to get some better insight here. So this budget as I said in the email has Kronenwetter removed, and now that could change.
- Deputy Chief Finke said there were a couple other deficits in the revenue side because of the changes with the Fire Contracts this year, so that did lower it a little bit.
- Schaefer said lets walked through the highlights of the updated budget, so I understand it. Remove Kronenwetter from budget, remove one Fire Fighter from shift at Station 1 24/7 leaving two on duty. So Station 1 is Rib Mountain and you will have two full time people there.
- Chief Savage said two staffed positions, one will be a Battalion Chief and one will be a part time.
- Schaefer said increase on raises, increase to WRS and included dental insurance.
- Chief Savage said the dental insurance somehow didn't get added in the budget for this year, so we made sure it went in this year. So it looks like we went from \$0.00 to \$1605.00 and we've been able to manage.
- Schaefer asked what is the increase in raise amount?
- Chief Savage said we budget 3%, but that's based on merit increases. Typically, no one gets above 3%. WRS increases are part time people.
- Schaefer said a decrease in gasoline and EMS supplies because you're not making as many runs. So in the end you propose \$120,000.00 increase in the operational budget. Maintain six Fire Fighters on duty, four at Weston and two at Rib Mountain. Why would there be a discrepancy between the two stations?
- Chief Savage said Weston runs roughly 66% of the calls and there's a high percentage of double ambulance calls out of Weston, then there are out of Rib Mountain.
- Schaefer asked, would you be sending out ambulances out of Weston with two people?
- Chief Savage said yes. It's always two unless it's cardiac arrest, unresponsive, stroke situations like that that would call for higher acuity where we would send a chase car so that they help out on scene and they clear as soon as the ambulance goes in route to the hospital.
- Deputy Chief Finke said if we staff four and two, we can staff three ambulances. If we staff three and three, we can only staff two ambulances. If we pull one ambulance out of here it only leaves one person and one ambulance out of the other it leaves one person.
- Chief Savage said first call for mutual aid typically is the City of Wausau, and the reason for that is they're a paramedic service. We provide paramedic level service to our citizens, if we're calling for mutual aid, we would still like to provide them with paramedic level coverage.
- Schaefer asked as a percentage, what is \$120,000.00 increase?
- Chief Savage said with talking with Nicole, it's 5.5%. Last year budget came in at 6%.

- Deputy Chief Finke said there is a 2.5% decrease in our operating budget.
- Schaefer said this is better than I thought.
- Deputy Chief Finke said the downside from an operational standpoint, this basically leaves us with very minimal to no effective initial fire response in the Town of Rib Mountain.
- Chief Savage said from 8:00am to 4:00pm or 8:30am to 4:30pm, somewhere in there we have myself, Deputy Chief Finke and EMS Division Chief Bechel as Admin. So during the day, we get that second ambulance out the door with two of us. The bonus to that is a large volume of our calls come during the day.
- White said you still have the capability of having paid on call people respond to the station.
- Chief Savage said we have the capability, do they respond off duty? No. Do we get a couple extra people for a structure fire? Sometimes. But our average off duty response for a structural fire is 3 or 5 and that's enough to get a second truck.
- White said in the Village here we are all experiencing an increase in health insurance. I didn't see any red flags in the budget.
- Chief Savage said 17%, so worst case scenario it is going to be 17% and that's in the budget. If you look at the line item of insurance we're currently well under, so we didn't add to that line because we will be able to absorb 17% out of that line for next year. Capital is not in the budget, what I wanted to try to get through was operational. Capital we have already talked with Nicole and Jessica about borrowing for capital, so it's already built in but it's not approved yet.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Attorney Referral.

- None.

Year to Date Budget review.

- Chief Savage said I don't have anything officially prepared because we were working on the other budgets.

E. Staff Reports

Report from Fire Chief

- Chief Savage said the only thing I was going to discuss tonight was Kronenwetter and I truly wanted to thank everyone for reaching out and making our voice heard for SAFER. There were 6 or 8 people that got up and spoke on our behalf and they were all Kronenwetter residents.

Report from Deputy Fire Chief

- Deputy Chief Finke said the construction is moving along nicely at Station 2, the front is a little tore up.

F. Remarks from the Board of Directors to set the next meeting date as well as discuss items for the next meeting agenda.

- Opall welcomed White back to the SAFER Board.
- Schaefer said a couple things when you bring back the budget with the new numbers, I would expect to see a budget that is tight to almost flat. Come up with a more formalized plan on attraction and retention of part time people.
- Next meeting Tuesday, October 13 at 18:00 at the Rib Mountain Town Hall.

G. Adjourn

Maloney/Langenhahn moved to adjourn. Opall adjourned at 19:22