

Safety Services Committee Meeting Minutes November 9, 2020

Called to Order: 5:00 pm by Sandy Russell

Present: Sandy Russell, Lisa Evans, Kyle Mitchell

Staff: City Manager-Michael Doss, MCFD Chief Mark Baird

Visitors: none

Proceedings: Ms. Evans made a motion to *approve the proceedings from the October 20, 2020 Safety Services Committee Minutes* Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion All yes

CITY OF MILFORD CONTRACT WITH MCFD FOR FIRE/EMS SERVICES

Mr. Doss presented information to the committee regarding the proposed draft contract between the City of Milford and the Milford Community Fire Department. Noted that this is a 2-year contract effective January 1, 2021 and will expire December 31st, 2022.

Items #11 and Items #13 were discussed as well as a discussion for the Chief of the Fire Department to become a City Employee at some time.

There was some interest with some council members to change the ways that the Fire Department does their Capital Acquisitions and Improvements as it relates to the Fire House itself and the property grounds that the City of Milford owns. Mr. Doss discussed the comparisons of how the City works with each department under the city's umbrella. The city would have the ability to approve all Capital purchases and improvements that exceed \$10,000. In total as it relates to the fire house building and the property grounds located at the address. MCFD is to provide the city with a minimum of 3 quotes for Capital Purchases for Improvements as it relates to the firehouse building and property grounds. This is not about fire apparatus or fire EMS but is about building improvements and the grounds themselves which the city has direct ownership in. With the levy coming, and those improvements, it seems to be some of the consensus with some of the council members that they could be stewards of the taxpayers' dollars and add an extra layer of check and balances for those expenditures

Chief Baird spoke to the committee about numbers and the numbers have been made available to the committee previously in the form of a 10 year plan that was presented to both to the Fire Board and to City Council which took into account everything related to the tax levy which passed at nearly 75% yes votes, with a tax increase for the residents which they thoroughly and soundly supported. And going back to Chief Cooper, have always looked at that as their one opportunity to have, on a regular basis, approval from the residents, whether they are or are not happy with the service. This Council insisted in the previous contract, that the City Manager be placed on the Fire Board. It was believed

that this was the reason for this to be imposed was to completely open the pipeline of communication. You know everything there is to know about MCFD. We mirrored years ago the city's purchasing policies and will continue to do that. Chief Baird stated that this may have started when he made his presentation last year about the fire board approving a \$60,000 to \$70,000 improvement to the Dayroom at the Fire Station. This purchase was treated just like anything the city would have done. Multiple quotes were received, and they took the best and most responsive bid to complete the work. Much of the work was completed by the fire department members at a substantial cost savings to the department and ultimately the taxpayers. The agreement is that the Fire Department pays for building improvements by contract.

Also discussed in detail was the position of Fire Chief to be a City Employee position. Chief Baird brought to the committee's attention the Day Heights clause and also discussed what the city would take on by hiring the Fire Chief. He did not feel that it was economically sound or efficient. The committee was looking more towards if the Fire Chief based on retirement, separation or disillusion of the current Chief, then council would hold the ability to hire the next Chief or have some part in the hiring process.

Chief Baird stated that he will have to convene to have a Fire Board meeting because he is not at liberty to negotiate that point.

After further advisement from the Law Director the Committee agreed to recommend that a draft contract for Fire and Emergency Medical Service Protection Services for The City of Milford, Ohio With Milford Community MCFD Inc be tabled while the City continues negotiations with the MCFD Board of Trustees.

There being no additional business Ms. Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 pm Seconded by Mr. Mitchell All yes

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Bain, Administrative Assistant

"These minutes have been approved and adopted by Sandy Russell, Lisa Evans and Kyle Mitchell via email this 16 day of November 2020."