

CITY OF FRANKLIN
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
Special Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2006

Opening

Mayor Jones-Matthews called the special meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Room.

Present

Mayor Jones-Matthews and board members Joe Ault and Stephen Hougland were present. Also present were Fire Chief Jim Reese, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Nelson, Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander, and Clerk-Treasurer Assistant Kristi Bruther.

An invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag were offered.

Public Comments

None

New Business

Emergency Purchase of a Fire Engine

Fire Chief Jim Reese appeared before the Board of Works to request the emergency purchase of a fire engine. Chief Reese explained that the engine blew up on the department's 16 year old fire engine, which has a 2600 gallon water tank commonly known as Engine 22. This engine is the larger of the two tankers owned by the department. On the same day the other fire truck Engine 21 had brake problems and had to be taken in for repairs. Fortunately, those repairs were completed within 24 hours and the Engine 21 was returned to service. In the interim the department borrowed a fire engine from Bartersville in case there was a fire. The Chief explained that his greatest concern is that without Engine 22, they would be unable to provide enough water in areas like Paris Estates that do not have hydrants. The fire truck he would like to purchase would be used as a "first out" vehicle and would back up Engine 22. The Chief gave the Board members a packet containing quotes for the purchase of a new smaller multipurpose fire engine with a 500 gallon water capacity known as a 'Quint.'

The following quotes for the purchase of a Quint were presented to the Board for discussion.

Vendor	Engine Type	Cost	Availability
Ferrara	Ferrara	\$519,000	In Stock
Southwestern	KME-Kovach	\$525,000	End of year
Donley	E-One	\$634,000	In Stock
Midwest	Pierce	\$545,000	Unknown

Chief Reese explained that his preference is the Ferrara fire engine due to the cost and immediate availability.

The Chief said that with Engine 22 out of service, the City has only one other engine which is not sufficient to provide adequate fire protection services. Chief Reese explained that a third fire engine is needed to provide complete fire protection services to the City. He also said that a new engine would provide coverage to the City while Engine 22 is out of service. He pointed out that the Ferrara, the least expensive vehicle on the quote sheet, could be delivered and placed into service within ten days or less.

Chief Reese explained that the damage to Engine 22 was significant and that the motor needs to be completely rebuilt or replaced. They were quoted \$18,000 to repair Engine 22 and they expect it to be out of service for 60 days. Board Member, Joe Ault, inquired whether the department had looked into the possibility of leasing a fire engine temporarily. He also asked whether it would be quicker to replace the entire engine motor versus attempting repairs.

Chief Reese and Deputy Chief Nelson explained Engine 22 has a Detroit motor, and due to the age of the truck, repair parts are scarce. The mechanic reportedly said that in a similar situation it took nearly eight weeks to get the parts and complete the repair. Deputy Chief Nelson also explained that the cost to replace the motor is \$35,400, whereas the repair was only \$18,000.

Mr. Hougland said that as they repair the engine they may find that the engine block is cracked and that an entirely new engine will have to be installed.

Board Member, Steve Hougland, commented that requests for emergency purchases by the Fire Department have become a common practice. Mr. Hougland also expressed concern about the request to purchase an engine with a 500-gallon tank when it is intended to replace the current first out engine that has a 2600 gallon tank.

Mr. Ault asked whether they could lease a water tanker similar to those used to fill pools as a back-up water supply while Engine 22 is out of service.

Board Member Joe Ault and the Mayor agreed that there is a need for a new fire engine.

Clerk-Treasurer, Janet Alexander, was asked whether the City could afford the purchase. She said that financing was an option and that funds for payments are available from the fire medic fund as long as they finance the purchase over time. She estimates that approximately \$100,000 a year in that fund could be used for payments. She also recommended that the City borrow money due to the limited amount of reserve cash available particularly in the General Fund. In order to borrow money the City is required to bid the financing, which takes time. The only way to avoid the bid process is to arrange a lease through the Indiana Bond Bank. If the Bond Bank is the lender, bidding is not required because of its quasi governmental status.

Board Member Joe Ault inquired about borrowing the money from the sewer utility. Ms. Alexander agreed that borrowing from the utility is a good option. The Mayor said that there are reserve sewer funds which could be borrowed.

City Attorney, Robert H. Schafstall, explained that the next step would be to discuss the financing option with the Common Council at Monday's meeting.

Mr. Hougland said that there isn't enough information to make a decision. He wants to know how much time is going to be needed to replace the motor in Engine 22, and whether there are fire engines that could be leased or borrowed in the interim.

Mayor Jones-Matthews said that she wants more specific information about how to go about borrowing money from the sewer utility.

Chief Reese stated that the requested information would be available to the Board Tuesday, May 23, 2006. The Board's consensus was to proceed first by replacing the motor in Engine 22, if the timing and price is appropriate. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Hougland, made a motion to authorize Mayor Jones-Matthews to make the decision to approve the purchase of a new motor for Engine 22 after consulting with Board Members via telephone. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 23, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk Treasurer

Enrolled: 5-22-06

Approved by the Board of Works: 6-13-06