

Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District
Trustee's District Meeting & Public Hearing

Date: November 12th, 2007

To: President & Trustees

From: Administrative Assistant

J. Feece called the Trustee Meeting to order at 5:01 pm with the following persons in attendance:

T. Reynolds	J. Feece	T. Haley
P. Hall	B. Britz	K. Callaghan
M. Huneke	D. Oliver	W. Byerhof
B. Beaty		

Truth in Taxation Hearing – Ordinance No. 2007-209:

A motion was made by T. Reynolds to open the Truth in Taxation Hearing. J. Feece seconded the motion. The Truth in Taxation Hearing was opened to the public at 5:03 pm.

President J. Feece asked if there was any public comment in regards to the proposed ordinance.

Resident Wayne Byerhof of 422 W. Shannon St. addressed the ECFPD Board of Trustees. He felt that a proposed increase of 26% over the 2006-2007 Levy amount to \$6,179,103.34 is a significant increase that requires explanation to the tax payers as to the districts intentions for these funds. He requested clarification as to the districts present needs and future plans for the district.

Resident Brian Beaty of 489 E. Willow St. also addressed the ECFPD Board of Trustees. He was also requesting more clarification as to the need for a 26% increase and the districts needs as well as future plans.

Chief K. Callaghan explained the process of determining the percentage of increase to request from Kane County. The Fire Chief, Assistant Chief Haley and Attorney R. Britz met at the Attorney's office to determine the amount. At that time, the formula provided by the County was used to determine the need for a 10% increase. New construction also needed to be added into the formula to determine a final percentage of increase. The new construction percentage was based on the past construction average and future construction plans for the district. The new construction percentage was determined to be 15%. A total of 26% increase was decided on for the 2007-2008 proposed Levy.

Chief Callaghan explained that Kane County is a tax cap county. If the district requests 10% when 20% is available, the district will only receive 10%. Chief Callaghan explained that the percentage and amount requested is not always granted. The County will notify the district if the amount requested is too high and the district will have to make a new request. The district is not told what the levy percentage or dollar amount is that they are allowed to receive. The district is only notified if the amount is too high. The tax payers are taxed regardless as to the amount the district actually receives. If the amount requested is too low, the taxes are paid to the County but are not distributed to the district. It is not known what happens to the funds the tax payers have paid if they are not paid to the district.

Chief K. Callaghan also reviewed the districts future plans. The Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District covers 75 square miles. Currently, Station One is located in the town of

Elburn on North St. and Station Two is located on Hughes Rd. near the Mill Creek Subdivision in the south portion of the district. Station Two was built in 2002 with capital funds acquired from development fees and a donation of land from Shodeen Inc.

Surveys have been done in 1989, 1994 and 2004. The survey shows the need for 4 additional stations to accommodate the needs of the citizens in the district. The goal is for a four minute response time at incidents and this is very difficult to accomplish due to the size of the district. With the increasing new construction, the district will need to build more stations. The district is planning a future station site in the Lily Lake area in the north portion of the district. Station Three would also be equipped with a medic engine and staffed with full time firefighter/paramedics. At this time, the district can not guarantee that the land needed will be donated for this future station site. Land acquisition may be needed as well as the funds necessary to build the station and purchase an engine for Station Three.

Station One will also need to be replaced in the future. The districts plan is to acquire land for a new Station One. The ambulance station on First Street was well as Station One on North Street would be sold. A new Station would be built with administrative offices, more storage and other accommodations that will be required at that time.

The district has also changed over the years from providing firefighting and medic services only to specialized team services such as Hazardous Materials, Trench Rescue and Water Rescue.

The district ISO rating has changed from Class 6 to Class 4. There are multiple three story homes in the district which will require the district to purchase a ladder truck in the future. Currently the district has an auto aid policy with the Batavia & St. Charles fire districts for a ladder truck to respond to an incident if needed.

Attorney R. Britz stated that other districts have requested much larger percentages. He also explained that new construction causes less of a tax burden from the district due to more homes sharing the cost & the district can not control assessment fees set by the County.

The residents present were satisfied with the explanations given for the 26% increase proposed for the 2007-2008 Levy.

A motion was made by T. Reynolds to close the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 5:25 pm. The motion was seconded by J. Feece.

Ordinance No. 2007-109 for the Levying and Assessing Taxes of the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District for the 2007-2008 was presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 2007-109 was made by T. Reynolds. The motion was seconded by J. Feece. A roll call vote was taken with 2 Ayes, 0 Nays & 1 Absent.

The Truth in Taxation Certificate of Compliance was presented to President J. Feece for his signature.

The Certificate of Tax Levy was presented to President J. Feece for his signature.

President J. Feece signed Ordinance No. 2007-109, the Truth In Taxation Certificate of Compliance and the Certificate of Tax Levy.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

J. Feece called for any additions or correction of the minutes from the previous month's meeting. T. Reynolds made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. J. Feece seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved with a copy placed on file.

Public Comment:
None

Treasurer's Report:

T. Reynolds made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. J. Feece seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved with a copy placed on file.

Approval of Bills:

The Purchase Journal was presented showing monthly invoice expenses of \$130,024.56. T. Reynolds made a motion to approve the bills. J. Feece seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved with a copy placed on file.

Fire Chief K. Callaghan Comments:

1) Medic Engine 305

- Chief K. Callaghan informed the ECFPD Board of Trustees that Medic Engine 305 is fully equipped and went into service on October 30, 2007.

2) Holiday Party Gift Approval

- Chief Callaghan informed the trustees of the gift ideas for the employees at the Holiday Party.
- Plaques for retirement, 125th Anniversary Travel Mug, current member plaques and Reams Meat Market gift certificates.
- The Trustees agreed that the gift ideas presented should be purchased.

T. Reynolds made a motion to approve the purchase of the gifts. J. Feece seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

3) Boot Allowance

- Chief Callaghan requested that the employees receive \$100.00 as a boot allowance for the year. The boot allowance checks will be presented along with the gifts at the Holiday Party.

T. Reynolds made a motion to approve the boot allowance of \$100.00 per employee. J. Feece seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

4) IAFFPD Conference

- Chief Callaghan informed the trustees of the IAFFPD Conference held in Byron, IL. On March 15, 2008.
- The conference is hosted by the University of Illinois Fire Service.
- Trustee R. Weber will be attending. Chief Callaghan requested that the other trustees let him know if they also will be attending.
- The conference covers topics such as Administration, Legislative Recap, Legal Training, Statewide Building Code & ISO.

5) EMS Building

- Chief Callaghan updated the trustees as to the status of the EMS Building and the improvements being made.
- There was a problem with the electrical power. There was only half power at the time of the new electrical panel installation.
- The underground wires leading to the building were corroded and broken. New service needed to be installed to the building.
- Due to the electrical issues, it has put the project behind schedule approximately one month.

Assistant Chief W. Stevens of EMS:

Assistant Chief W. Stevens was not present.

Assistant Chief T. Haley of Fire Operation Comments:

Assistant Chief Haley had to leave the meeting due to the need to respond to an incident.

Chief Callaghan presented the following agenda item:

1) Review Incident Report for District

- Chief Callaghan presented the Firehouse Incident Report listing the incidents that the district has been dispatched for the month of October 2007.
- A copy of the report has been placed on file.

Attorney R. Britz Comments:

- Attorney R. Britz informed the trustees that Chief Callaghan asked him to review a potential issue. A business bordering the St. Charles & Elburn Fire District has facilities or property that is closer to the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District than the district they are paying taxes to.
- The business does not pay taxes to the Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District. The tax dollars collected are distributed to the St. Charles Fire District. The Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District has been providing the fire services needed as incidents are reported.
- Attorney R. Britz has not been able to get specific answers in regards to this issue. No ordinance has been produced showing annexation into the St. Charles Fire District.
- Attorney R. Britz will contact the State Attorney's office to proceed with the findings and to verify which district the business is in.

Administrative Assistant Comments:

No Comment

Other concerns:

Chief Callaghan reviewed the recruit program with trustees. Currently, there are 3 recruits that are in the Southern Kane Fire Fighter II Academy that will be graduating in December 2007. After they become certified as Fire Fighter II and all drills are completed they will become Paid on Call Fire Fighters.

Other concerns continued:

Chief Callaghan informed the trustees that Lt. M. Huneke is currently interviewing prospective recruits. 20 individuals have applied and 12-15 will be accepted into the new recruit program. A final decision has not been made as to where and who will teach the EMT Class. It will either be taught by Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection employees as in the years past or it will be taught by Delnor employees at their facility.

Chief Callaghan informed the trustees that he will be meeting with Alexis on November 14, 2007 for the Tender Pre Construction Final Meeting.

Fire Marshal presented the Fire Prevention Report to the trustees. Fire Marshal A. Isberg reviewed the fire prevention bureau schedule, new construction in the district, inspections and fire prevention education. A copy of the report has been placed on file.

At 5:55 pm, T. Reynolds made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Feece seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela C. Hall
Administrative Assistant