



Nederland Fire Protection District Board of Directors Work Session Meeting Agenda
April 9th, 2022

**** This meeting is being recorded ****

Roll Call

Iain Irwin-Powell – Y
Todd Wieseler - Y
Guy Falsetti – A
Jess McElvain – Y
Russ Panneton – Y
Chief Scott - A

Announce Quorum & Call Meeting to Order @ 0916

Public Statements, Comments or Questions

(Please state name and if in district or out of district for the record)

Name	District
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New Business

Discuss budget requirements and finance options for vehicle replacement plan. This was an informational work session and no decisions were made.

The board discussed the current budget with respect to 2023 and how much was left after the 'lights are turned on'.

Noted that although property tax rates are likely to continue to increase these affect the living costs of staff and also the staffing budget

Discussed the reserved and unreserved funds amounts and how those can be used.

Discussed potential vehicle maintenance costs for current fleet moving forward vs purchasing new vehicles without that burden.

Discussed the relative merits of buying used vehicles. Noted that used vehicles tend to become available at 15 years, the maximum lease period and experience shows that these come with maintenance overhead that the department inherits.

Discussed the deferred maintenance of district buildings and how much should be set aside for that purpose. Action item to request list of potential capital expenses for building items for 2023.

Discussed the budget in the context of a vehicle replacement plan. Board agreed that the current budget does not support a vehicle replacement program.

Discussed the options available to raise revenue for a vehicle replacement program.

Options discussed

- Mill levy rise
- 501c3 to collect donations via a tax efficient method and how this may make corporate donation more attractive
- Sell some of the unused vehicles (old back country ambulance, parade engine, rescue truck)

The mechanics of placing a mill levy raise on the ballot was discussed as was the increase that may be required to support a vehicle replacement program. Discussed how a vehicle replacement program requires some funds to be available for either down payment or grant matching and that there is no way to build that fund with the current budget. Action item, produce a table of mill levy increases and what that means for a range of property values. Action item, create vehicle replacement schedule and costs based on today's values.

Discussion in the context of purchasing a new engine to replace engine 1, now 24 years old. Potential costs of ~\$740,000 used in calculations requiring a lease purchase option totaling ~\$65,000 per year for 15 years to repay.

The manufacturer is offering a \$60,000 discount for orders placed before 4/30.

Board discussed merits of that offer based on a budget that does not support a viable replacement program.

Board discussed whether it should wait until after a mill levy raise is attempted then order anyway or order immediately.

Build time for new engine estimated to be ~600 days due to supply chain issues

Board noted that delaying may increase costs due to inflation rates, supply cost increases and loss of incentives

Board noted that on a 600 day delivery the ~4 attempts to pass a mill levy increase would be possible

Discussed the complexities and messaging involved in placing a question on the ballot and how that might be successful. Discussed various mill values (2-4 mills) that would support a 20-year

replacement plan. Noted that the department would also aggressively apply for grants for equipment replacement to reduce mill burden.

Discussed ring-fencing the mill levy to ensure it is used only for vehicle replacement. Rejected expanding the scope of the usage to building maintenance.

Discussed the possibility of a sales tax or short-term rental tax to augment mill levy. Discussed the complexity of implementation and collection. Would require further investigation.

The board noted the current fire large risks that we see in Colorado and nationwide and how we as a district approach that moving forward.

Discussed a clearer mission statement to support future public interactions

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Any other business

Next Meeting April 20th @ 7pm

Adjourn the meeting @ 4-0-0 1203pm