



HIGHLANDS FIRE DISTRICT

FIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES • 04/04/23

A special meeting of the Fire Board of Directors was held on Thursday, April 4, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Members attended in-person at District Administration at 3350 Old Munds Hwy and through video conferencing.

1. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.
2. ROLL CALL: Board members present were Chairperson Hanecak, Clerk Brad Bippus, Director Smith, Director Foreman, and Director Nelson.

Administrative personnel present were Chief Miller, Battalion Chief Mike Greenwalt, Ms. Jayme Jones, and Mrs. Robyn Wilson.

Visitor Bryan Lundberg from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. attended the meeting remotely.

3. WORK SESSION FOR FY 2024 BUDGET.

Chairperson Hanecak welcomed Mr. Lundberg. He informed the Board that the District is “faced with two potentially large increases to the burden on our budget.” The first is the Compensation Study, and the second is Apparatus. The intent is to look at options for funding, consider feedback from the Board, and provide directions for staff to move forward.

Chief Miller provide FY 2024 Budget Information including budget goals, levy limits, carryover information, options for funding capital purchases, and potential mil rate increase. He asked for the Board’s recommendation for solving the issue of fund capital expenses. The Board discussed in length the various options including paying cash, using a lease purchase, borrowing from the County Treasury, using a General Obligation Bond (GO Bond), or a combination of these.

For many reason, Director Foreman said would support using a GO Bond; he provided a lot of knowledge regarding purchasing apparatus.

Chief Miller discussed using carryover funds for a down payment so a Type 1 Engine could be ordered, since there is a two-year delay to obtain an engine. Money spent could be reimbursed with a GO Bond. He discussed several other funding possibilities. Director Smith spoke about the benefits of revenue smoothing.

Chief Miller had much to say about employee retention, and the recent unprecedented loss of employees. Director Smith made the point that it’s beneficial for employees to have pride in their equipment. Chairperson Hanecak believes they need to evaluate compensation because it is such a large component. He pointed out that using a GO Bond could take pressure off the General Fund, and he is in favor of it.

The Board discussed the process for passing a GO Bond. Mr. Lundberg answered questions.

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Chief Miller explained the tight timeline for electing a GO Bond. The call of election resolution needs to be made by May 11, 2023.

The Board agreed that moving forward with the GO Bond is in our best interest. They provided Chief Miller with the appropriate guidance to begin the process of seeking a \$3 million GO Bond. A resolution will be considered at the April 18, 2023 meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT. A MOTION was made by Director Foreman and was seconded by Director Smith to adjourn; the motion was unanimously APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Jones
Administrative Specialist