

LODI AREA FIRE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE & TIME: Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 5:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Lodi Fire Station, 115 N. Main St. Lodi, WI 53555

1. Call meeting to order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Nelson.

Commission members present: Doug Nelson, Mikel Bilkey, James Brooks, Nick Cable.

Member excused absent, Matt Davies.

Also, present: Fire Chief Bobby Annen.

Citizens Present: Dan Marquardt, Chad Walters, John Lehr

2. Public Input

None

Discussion, review and possible action on the following:

3. 2016 Firefighter checks/taxes – Brokish Accounting

Bilke - Error happened with volunteers where taxes were not held.

Brokish, an error happened with Volunteers where you ended up getting a paycheck without any taxes being withheld. Once that happened we were kind of in a bad spot. Rather than jumping through a lot of hoops and try to move it into this year and do something or the other option was to issue 10-99's there are ramifications to that as well as opposed to a W-2, again, I am sorry that that happened. There's reasons it did happen but it's so far into the weeds that my eyes are kind of, I'm not involved in payroll anymore, but largely the main excuse is this is the first time we've done the EMS in our new system in Madison and somebody did it wrong, it's just as simple as that, again we apologize and to that end we are doing the work for free this year so there will be no bill to the Fire Department. John Lehr – as far as I know we got our 10-99's we have to pay on the taxes on the Fica stuff and everything else right. Brokish, yes. Lehr, that check cut was very little for what we got. Brokish, it should've covered what you were out John. Because what Happens is W-2 has your share and the employer pays the other half so when you get a 10-99 you end up paying both sides. Our intent was to at least get you back to hole that way. You got a check for what the fire department should've paid which would get you even on the board. Chad Wolters, so the check that was cut to us was for what the department would've paid in. Brokish – yes, Wolters, it's not meant to cover the taxes that should've been taken out of the checks. Brokish, right. We have 28 people involved and probably 28 different outcomes so it's not something simple to fix. That's why that check was cut to try to fix this. Brokish, we had hard numbers of what the department would've paid so that's what was paid to you. Lehr, is this going to happen again. Are going to get W-2s with the stuff taken out of it like it should like you used to do. Brokish, yes. Wolters, we are now going to get taxed on that check like if it its taxable income. Brokish, yes it would be. Brooks, what was the maximum check that was cut? Brokish, it would be based on the amount of pay and its 7.65. Lehr my check is a little over \$3000.00 and I got a check between \$200.00 and \$300.00 the second time around. Wolters, mine was a little of \$200.00. Brooks, so we have to float

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numbers to make them whole from these checks. Brokish, I guess that would be right and there's a way to do that. Lehr, how can you count this check that you cut in good faith to us and consider it as income. Brooks, the Fire Board's opinion and the federal governments opinion are two different things. Lehr that's not considered a paycheck. Brooks, what we consider a paycheck and the federal government considers a paycheck are going to be different. Brokish, correct. Brooks, so how do we fix that. Brokish, first let me look in and see if there is a way out, where not dealing with thousands of dollars here fortunately. I will check again to see if there is some way out of this. If there isn't there is a gross up method that can come into play to figure what you may be out. That's someone hard though because that's going to play off of your tax return. Wolters, so again where going to look at the smaller problem instead of the bigger problem from last years taxes. Brokish, the bigger problem being? Wolters, the bigger problem of the all the extra money causing more taxes that I have to pay on \$2300.00 versus the extra taxes I have to pay on the \$200.00. Brokish, there really isn't a big problem because if you got a 10-99 of \$2000.00, had it been done right you would've got a W-2 that said \$2000.00. Lehr, but the W-2 would've had all the taxes taken out, right? Brokish, it would've depending on how your W-4 form. Bilke, but also keep in mind you would've got less money if we would've taken the taxes out. Lehr, I understand that. Brokish, one way or another you would've had it withheld so instead you probably paid in a little extra in on your tax return. Wolters, after talking with my tax account, I had a child in December, she said without him being born I would've paid into State taxes this year. I have the most taken out of my check so I can get the largest return. Brokish, at least temporarily you had more money in your pocket, again were talking timing. Wolters that's my point I do it that way so I get a large return. Brokish, I understand. Bilke, so the question Steve really is how do we, can we have someone go in next year before they do payroll and say we want to take out X percent out of all these checks. Brokish, see that's the function of the government for ya. What I tell a lot of people that do part time work is take out 15%, 5% state and that way you have coverage for that. Cable, I think everyone needs to fill just fill these out from scratch. Lehr, who has our W4's? Lehr, is there a way that we can change them. Brokish, yes. Brooks, so everybody needs to fill out a new W4, Brokish, we have them. Brooks, then moving forward was is the solution to fix this problem, we have had a calamity and we need this fixed for the future, what do we need to do to make sure that this doesn't happen again, we don't need our volunteers to quit and right now we have volunteers talking about quitting because of this. Brokish, ok from our end it will be fixed, it probably is already, I'm sure it is so um in terms of having peoples withholdings be right that's going to be up to each individual completing there W4's and basically letting us know how to withhold. You can withhold anywhere from \$0.00 to all of it this is an individual choice. Lehr, so all we have to do is resubmit our W4's. Brokish, yep. At the end of the year we will put this information into the system and this how we will. Lehr, so whatever we put down that will be taken out. Brokish, correct. Wolters, so I have a question now I have no clue about percentages or what I should be taking out. I tell my tax preparer what to take out and they just do it so what am I supposed to do in that situation and I'm sure you're going to get that from a lot of people. Brooks, I'm sitting here thinking the same thing. I have a tax prepare and they do everything, they do it, it's done, I don't know what they're doing its done for me. What do we tell our firefighters here or is this something where each firefighter needs to go have a meeting with you? It makes more sense to me that you come here then they come to your office. If you have a better suggestion please go ahead. Brokish, the hitch you get into is it's so individual. Depending on tax bracket and exemptions its worth different amounts to different people. Brooks, so what you're saying here is there is no simple answer or solution to our problem. Brokish, not exactly right. What I'm going to offer is if those 28 people want to come in sit down for 30 minutes it's no charge. Lehr, I just want this done. Cable, the problem does what Chad is saying is to do single 0 on a \$3000.00 check or a \$2000.00 dollar check it's going to be nothing it's going to be so small. Brooks, how did this work out so well for you in the past Chad? The City of Lodi did our taxes. Brokish, again what I tell the part time worker is you're going to need to do a percentage or you're going to get caught up. Bilke – remember last year we took X percent out off

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the top and paid that in taxes for everybody but again that isn't right for everybody but that's how it was. That goes back to when they started making us tax people on it. Marquadt, we did W-4's. Brooks, so this as clear as mud. Brokish, right it's hard to talk about it when everyone's situation is different. Bilke, it will affect the ones that make the most on the department. Brokish, the ones that made four hundred dollars or less are the ones that made out because they didn't really pay any social security tax.

Bobby will take care of W-4's and he will take care of it for new people and they have an option to speak with Brokish to get it checked out.

4. **Elections**

- A. President
- B. Secretary
- C. Treasurer

Motion - With Matt not being present I would like to table elections to the next meeting. Brooks/Bilkey

5. **Quick Books and Bank Account Access**

When the city stopped doing the books and the treasurer left town. Bilkey said I'll do it because someone needs to do it. I have access to all of it and no-one else does. Who else should have access to it in case changes need to be made.

Motion - Table to next meeting. Bilkey/Cable

6. **Phone – Answering Machine**

The answering machine that was in the office broke and is not repairable. I would like to get an answering machine through Charter.

Bilkey – There is a system through Charter voicemail. We should get that for free with Charter Phone. If it's not enabled let me know and we will get it done.

7. **Treasurer:**

- A. Financials reports

Recommend paying checks 5479 through 5494, automated payment to utility and 111 chief's salary.

I make a motion to approve payment. - Cable/Nelson

- B. Payment of bills

Fire department budget versus actuals. I started putting the income on here which I hadn't been doing in the past. There are a couple things that are abnormal there. The City of Lodi paid the entire assessment check in February. Received a check from the Town of Lodi which contained multiple calls for service.

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Firefighter appreciation is always wrong because we do that right at the beginning of the year so we were always using up last year's firefighter appreciation money first but it shows up on this year's so that looks abnormal.

Bobby – PPE budget should be 10,500 not 8850.00 so it looks like we've used 82% because we have not. We increased the budget last year.

Bilke, this still reflects the \$46,700 that we are not getting from the City of Lodi so my anticipation is that when we go back to the municipality money meeting in August we will need to do a budget amendment to correct the income we said we are going to get from them because it makes no sense to say we're getting it from them when we're getting part. Annon, where budgeting money we don't have. Bilke, budgeting money we don't get.

The Towns need to figure out because they're holding that money. Bilke, the towns need to figure out if it's legal to collect the money for the fire department if you're not giving it to the fire department because if we take it off the budget, what we are requesting from you becomes a problem for you to collect that money and hold it. You have no reason to collect that money if we don't budget for it. If we take it off of what we are requesting from you it becomes a problem for you to collect that money and hold it to save it for something. We need to figure this out. This is something the towns need to find out on. Bilke, what I'm saying is your taxing people for something that I'm taking out of the budget now and maybe I shouldn't take it out.

Bilke, in August I would like to do a budget amendment and take this money off of the books so this needs to get figured out. If they want us to continue to budget for this then we have this number on our budget that doesn't really exist, it's money we didn't get.

8. Secretary:

A. Meeting Minutes

A1. April 12th, 2017

Motion to approve minutes - Bilkey/Cable

9. Fire Chief Reports:

(a) SCBA updates

Chief - Nothing new to report

(b) Building updates

Chief - Touch up work. New carpet, paint in the bay. The joint meeting was a complete waste of time other than the 5 Bugles presentation. The point was to come into the meeting with a plan and take action on that plan. I feel like I was misguided. I just don't understand it. The need is there, we called a special meeting in August to discuss this very thing and no one wants to do anything.

Brooks – I agree, my understanding is we were holding that meeting to bring back information and we were moving forward in some way with action, large or small and we are spinning our wheels in the

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ditch. I do feel the municipalities said you need to go get quotes on fixes for the department. Since we are here were going to need to start fixing the place for nothing. Bilke - I agree with what you said Bobby. We had an opportunity to say let's have these guys right something for us for fee to see what the possibilities are and I thought the word free would get somebody to say ok but then someone said we can look online for free, however these guys know what they are doing and we don't. Bobby I'm very disappointed and everyone on the fire department is as well, I understand these things take time but this meeting was set to move forward with this and we are still sitting with the vehicle in park, now we are polishing a turd. Why are we spending all this money when we may be leaving? Bilke, would we really put a \$50,000.00-dollar roof on it if we are going to leave it or would we just patch it. Annon, that was the whole point. Bilke another question is what do the municipalities want to do with the place when we leave or do they want to take it down and put a parking lot there. If you're going to sell it we are going to have a hard time recouping the money. Annon, we will get the quotes to fix the place but the longer we sit here any possible sites for a new department are going away. Bilke, can we patch the roof, tear it down put in a parking lot what's the plan. We need to have quotes on concrete, side parking lot, and roof. Bilkey getting quote on parking lot. Will talk to the City to see if they can help with repair. Pad out front as well, Bobby – Roof, Bilke - Electrical

(c) Fire call report(s)

6 total calls

City of Lodi

#36 Possible Gas leak Lutheran Church

#39 Gas leak on Hill street

#41 Med Flight LZ

Town of Lodi

#37 Motorcycle accident J and Koltes

#40 EMS Assist on Rodney Dr.

Mutual Aide Call

#38 Mutual Aide in Dane for a fire

(d) Other status report(s)

Membership # at 35. Voted on new member Monday and the max number is 36. May change by-laws to increase numbers but not sure right now. Space is premium

Getting good candidates – prior experience

Set on gear right now, had to order some new pagers because we didn't have enough for the new members. I got additional so we have spares in case we have problems with current ones.

(e) Upcoming event(s)

Calendar will be on the way. Disturbed within the next month

Fair

Susie Days

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- (f) Other issues the Fire Chief wishes to bring to the attention of the Fire Commission **
Where are we at with the credit card. Bilkey – application has been started for the card.
- (g) Other questions from Commission members **

10. Adjourn

6:19 PM Motion to adjourn - Brooks/Bilkey

*Minutes Prepared by:
Town of Lodi Supervisor I
James P. Brooks*