

**Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ 108 Urton Lane
Special Meeting June 12, 2024
Minutes**

I. Opening

- a. Chairperson Kyle Galloway called the meeting of the Board to order at 4:34 pm. at AMFEMS Station #1. The trustees present were Andy Downes, Rick Dattilo, Thomas Wobbe, Mindy Sunderland, and Linda Oliver. Also in attendance were Chief Kevin Groody, Chief Kevin Tyler, Major Wolfe, Deputy Chief Sutt, Deputy Chief Michel, Deputy Chief Brooks, Major Schewe, Captain Durtche, Rob Miller, Major Willen, Firefighter Baker, Sergeant Decker, Firefighter Tredway, Firefighter McHatton, Firefighter Grosskopf, Laura Lopez, Firefighter Craven, Sergeant Hayes, Sergeant Karrer, Sergeant Paul, Firefighter Brown, Firefighter Scott, Sergeant Edelen, Captain Grassi, Major Hanson, Tonya Smith, Pam Henehan, Guest John Hodgson District Rep, as well as 68 others via Zoom, Shannon Ran as recorder, and Bryan Dillon, general legal counsel to the Board.

Chairperson Galloway made a point of order that the provided agenda was incorrect, and per our special meeting notice, we will only be discussing the FY'25 Budget Draft. Accordingly, there was no open forum or executive session.

II. Old Business

- a. Review of the FY'25 Draft Budget.
 - Chief Groody reviewed the updated salary structure change and how they will rein in the overtime cost. He also explained the FY'25 budget is based on raising the tax rate to 0.17% from 0.16%.
 - Trustee Wobbe reported that the finance committee met again for over 2 hours and spoke in detail about the proposed FY'25 budget draft, recommending that the board pass the proposed budget including the 0.17% tax rate increase. The proposed budget would include a contingency fund for new apparatus.
 - Chief Groody reported that \$900K is being set aside for capital purchases. He also reviewed the proposed FY' 25 pay scale adjustment sheet, and entertained questions.
 - HR Director Tonya Smith explained the current EMS stipend, and how it is not part of the paramedic salary pay.
 - Chief Tyler reported on how AMFEMS will start to rein in the overtime cost, by lowering the minimum staffing per day, and how 56-hour personnel are paid while attending outside training classes. Per the labor attorneys we have been overpaying them and have the right to correct the pay structure. He also entertained questions.
 - Trustee Downes wanted to know if civilian/non-hazardous personnel were included in the salary compression. They were not included in this compression but this can be

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- addressed in the next budget. However, if the board approved, they would receive a COLA.
- Trustee Dattilo asked if lowering the minimum staffing would affect response time and raise alarms for safety concerns. Chief Tyler responded that we are going from optimal to adequate staffing, but having stations close to each other should alleviate any delay in response times. It will also not affect our ISO ratings.
 - Chairperson Galloway asked if there would be a way to phase in the salary structure over two years. Trustee Wobbe- Finance committee chair explained it would not be cost-effective to do so, and he feels that if tried to do that we would start to see an increase in lateral transfers to other departments, and AMFEMS will be “paying to train”.
 - Trustee Downes asked if it would be fair to look at some kind of compensation for ranks that have to ride an ambulance that is not regularly scheduled. Chief Tyler's response was during the interview process it was explained to them what their job duties would entail, and that included riding in an ambulance.

Chairperson Galloway requested that the regularly scheduled Tuesday, June 18, 2024 board meeting be moved to Monday, June 17, 2024, at 4:30 pm at AMFEMS Station 31 Boardroom.

III. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:01 pm. by Andy Downes, second by Rick Dattilo. The motion passed unanimously.

Shannon F. Ran
Executive Administrative Assistant
Recording Secretary for the Board

*Supporting documents are available by request through the Fire Protection District.