

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:00 PM
Litchfield Fire House, 258 West St., Litchfield

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman John Campbell, Jack Hodges, Paul Parsons, Douglas Hatstat, Gary Shuhi

Members Absent: LVA Representative

Review and act upon LVA bid for ambulance replacement

The Chair noted that as of yet the Commission has not received a proposed FY2018/2019 budget from Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance. P. Parsons moved to table this item until the commission receives the proper documents to move forward, J. Hodges seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chair explained that a meeting was held in the First Selectman's office regarding the LVA replacement ambulance where LVA was told the procedure and paperwork that was required to purchase an ambulance. He stated that the ambulance was ordered outside of the bid process. LVA did go through a bid process afterwards and the bids did come in legally, and only one company bid upon it. Leo will allow LVA to go through this process and get the money if this commission agrees, as long as the current contract is null and void and certified and Leo signs the new contract.

John Pudlinski was present to represent LVA. The Commission asked him to bring the following information back to this commission to review and approve to move this purchase along; (1) the original bid that was opened, (2) a copy of what was sent out, (3) a copy of the letter with the bid price that was listed in the paper indicating total dollar amount to be spent.

P. Parsons explained that LVA should make a request to the Commission to accept the bid that was selected and show what the bid price is, what the town is paying based off of capital and a statement that LVA will pay the remainder. Also list what the cost of the publication in the newspaper was as part of this package. The Chair made note that after all this is said and done and Leo signs the contract, the ambulance will be registered to the Town of Litchfield. The LVA representative understood and agreed to this.

Discussion and approval of all departments operating budgets

P. Parsons noted that at the last meeting of the Commission, where all the other departments' budgets were discussed and approved, LVA had not submitted a budget. Since that meeting LVA submitted a proposed budget to keep the current budget amount flat. He stated that Leo is requested a 0% increase budget for all fire services because of the way the State is squeezing the towns.

Paul presented several options to respect Leo's request, both would reduce LVA's budget. The reason being; that now that they are serving Morris and Litchfield they will pick up additional billing by keeping the billing from the extra daytime people. There will be a pushback to Morris to ask for more money than the current verbal agreement that LVA has with them.

He suggested that if LVA's budget is reduced by \$6,000 then the fire side needs to reduce across the board to meet the 0% increase. D. Hatstat doesn't want to see any of the fire budgets reduced because LVA has not been cooperating with the Commission or the Town regarding its budget or purchase of equipment and have not had a representative attend a commission meeting in several months.

The Commission is very displeased with LVA's lack of input regarding the budget process, and the agreement with Morris.

D. Hatstat moved to keep all fire departments budget as already presented and approved by this commission and adjust LVA budget to reflect the total overall 0% increase, P. Parsons seconded. In discussion the chair expressed his desire to keep the LVA budget at \$6,000. Voting in favor of the motion, D. Hatstat, voting against the motion, J. Campbell, P. Parsons, J. Hodges, G. Shuhi, the motion failed.

J. Hodges moved to reduce LVA's proposed budget of \$24,544 to \$18,544 for a reduction of \$6,000. Bottom line total EMS budget will be \$53,214, G. Shuhi seconded and the motion passed with D. Hatstat voting against the motion.

J. Hodges moved to rescind the previous vote on the fire budget and amend it to read; the new fire budget shall be \$386,176 from the previous amount of \$391,030 a decrease of \$4,854. The allocation will be from the second batch of the form submitted by Paul with a proposed reduction adjustment from the previous amount for Northfield FD of \$1309, Bantam FD a reduction of \$1,196, E. Litchfield FD \$648 and Litchfield FD \$1699. The new total budget for the fire services will be \$386,176, P. Parsons seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were; J. Hodges, J. Campbell and P. Parsons, voting against the motion were D. Hatstat and G. Shuhi, the motion passed.

Adjournment

P. Parsons moved to adjourn at 5:34 p.m., J. Hodges seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

John Campbell, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS

Date