



City of Westworth Village
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FIRE DEPT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2013
TIME: 8:30 AM**

**MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
311 BURTON HILL ROAD**

THE AGENDA WAS POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT (TGC Chapter 551). A QUORUM OF COUNCIL MEMBERS WAS IN ATTENDANCE.

ATTENDEES:	Chair	Kelly Jones
	Member	Nick Encke
	Member	Mike Coleman
	Council Member	Steve Beckman
	Interim Fire Chief	Brian McKinney
	Senior Fire Chief	Don Day
	City Administrator	Roger Unger
	City Secretary	Carol Borges
	Firefighter	Mike Roberts

CALLED TO ORDER at 8:33am by Chairman Jones.

Chairman Jones stated the Committee is in the last stages of a deliberate review of the Fire Department. The needs of the community and the Department's finances have been discussed at length. Today's meeting is the last investigative meeting of the Committee to discuss the manpower needs to maintain our own department.

I. Approval of Minutes from Fire Dept Oversight Committee Meeting on November 21, 2013.

- **MOTION** made by Mike Coleman. **SECOND** by Nick Encke. **Motion passed unanimously.**

II. Discuss the future of fire protection for the City of Westworth Village.

- There are four options to provide fire protection to the City: (1) maintain our own semi-volunteer department, (2) a second attempt at a Tri-City department with River Oaks and Sansom Park, (3) contracting for services with White Settlement, or (4) contracting for services with Fort Worth.
- City Administrator Roger Unger stated current labor expense for all city employees is approximately \$170K. The Fire Department is no longer a truly volunteer department with part-time and incentive pay. Current maximum pay for a part-time Firefighter/Paramedic is \$14.56/hour. The trend continues to move toward a paid staff. Chief McKinney confirmed the incentive pay has allowed the Department to retain current staff. Firefighter interest and volunteer coverage is improving. Chief presented

breakdowns for several manning/cost options. Options 1 – 4 are only viable in a joint effort with surrounding cities. Options 5-7 expand on the current budget with increased manning hours and personnel. Roger stated Option 7 would require 25-30 people. He likes the concept but believes it would take too many people to man the station. Chief McKinney agreed, noting that bunker gear for each firefighter would be an added expense. Option 8 eliminates part-time officers. Options 9 & 10 are very similar to Options 7 & 8. Option 9 is the most comparable to the current budget. Discussion continued at length as to the options presented.


- Roger stated maintaining our own department will require a budget of \$370-425K within three years, including capital expenditures. Chairman Jones stated the big question is what does the City want to pay for fire protection? Having Police ECA/First Responders has minimized the need for First Responders from Firefighters. Aside from ECA Certification, police officers are required to pass CPR and First Aid training in the state of Texas. Westworth typically has only one fire [or less] per year. One-hundred percent response cannot be guaranteed without a paid fire department.
- Chief Brian McKinney stated the grant for the purchase of a brush truck will require a decision by the end of the calendar year. Additionally, to meet impending mandates the City would need to purchase a new fire truck. At an estimated cost of \$500K, the City would lose \$100-300K on the sale of the truck if we did away with the department within three years after the purchase.
- Chairman Jones stated the City will further explore other options. A meeting with White Settlement, to discuss contracting for services, is planned for next week. A meeting of elected officials from River Oaks and Sansom Park, to discuss the viability of a Tri-City Interlocal Agreement, will be scheduled as soon as possible. Councilman Coleman stated if the City moves to any option other than maintaining our own dept, we would not be able to go back to our own department. Councilman Encke would like to review Roger's three to five year financial comparison data again before making the committee renders its recommendation to Council.

Chairman Jones stated his appreciation to Chief McKinney for his leadership. The Committee has great confidence in the Department and its members. He appreciates the Committee's efforts to completely examine all the options and its financial toll on the community.

ADJOURNED at 9:48am by Chairman Jones.

MINUTES taken by City Secretary Carol Borges.

MINUTES APPROVED on this, the 31st day of MARCH, 2014.



Kelly Jones, Chair

SIGNATURE ATTESTED BY:



Carol Ann Borges, City Secretary

