

The Special meeting of the Common Council was held at the City Hall/Community Room on the above date and time.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, Gregg Bennett @ 6:00 p.m. Roll call and Alderpersons present: Basting, Schmit, Rash, Oellerich, Mitchell, Pittz and Galle. Clerk Treasurer Heisner and Deputy Clerk treasurer, Jodi Shemak were also present.

The following options were presented to the Finance Committee and Council at the July Council meetings.

Option 1-

Refurbish the 20 year old truck. With talking to companies that do this type of work the cost is roughly one half the price of a new truck. And expect about less than half the life of the truck in the end. 20 year truck equals about 8 more years of service. This option would also put it at its end of life as a fire truck about the same time that Engine 3 needs replacement (the other city owned truck) This is the least desirable option it is only a band aid to the bigger problem. (At pump test 2 weeks ago, the pump passed the test but there is a mechanical seal that is bad. Repair price is approx. \$4000.00 to fix)

Option 2 –

Replace the truck with a new truck built about the same as what is currently being used. The truck will have to be a “custom” made truck due to the size restrictions we have in the station. This option will probably be around \$300,000 to \$325,000. This price is based off the trucks we have just purchased for Mineral Point Fire Department INC. This option would keep the city on the 20 year replacement schedule that you are on now. This option would also keep current maintenance on two trucks. This option does not better the resources of the department to respond to calls more efficiently.

Option 3 –

This option would sell both of the city owned engines and combined them into one.

The following are appraisals from Dennis Moore our used truck broker (Alexis Fire Equipment)

- 2006 Alexis/Freightliner Top Control Pumper
Trade Value: \$60,000.00
Retail Value:
\$ 80,000-\$ 85,000
- 1997 Custom Fire/Peterbilt Hose Truck
Trade Value: \$ 7,000.00
Retail Valve: \$ 15,000

One option is to replace with a fully NPFA compliant engine (seating for six with five airparks, supply line ,attack lines, suctions and discharges, ground ladders, 1250 – 1500 GPM pump, foam unit) This option will most likely be in the \$450,000.00 range. This will drop one full truck from insurance, maintenance, help with ISO rating and free up some room in the station.

Option 4 –

This option starts out the same as option 3; the difference in this option is to replace the two trucks with a quint. This would also have a great impact the response and safety of our firefighters. Present time we need to try and use a 55’ extension ladder. This is very heavy and dangerous to try and set up in the dark, snow, wind and take 5-8 members to do safely this would also be an NPFA compliant truck. The price for this will run from \$600,000.00 to \$800,000.00.

The above 4 options are what we have come up with. We are putting these choices out to you to decide on which way you would like us to go. We would like to sit down and talk about all the options presented. The current way the department runs worked well in the past, we were able to get enough people to fill all the trucks and have people to spare. In today’s life styles and family life, along with more and more people working out of town we are finding that we are waiting longer time to get all the trucks out of the station and to the scene. We need to start “thinking out of the box” on replacing trucks to be able to handle / do more with less personal. The process takes 12-18 months to go through the specification process, bids and the manufacturing of the truck before delivery. Please don’t hesitate to contact myself with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mineral Point Fire Department INC. Chief Officers and Members

Chief Bryan Marr discussed how options 1 and 2 are really not feasible options. Options 3 and 4 are what the fire department would like to see happen. Some of the questions and comments were:

Ald. Pittz asked if Option 3 combined 2 trucks into 1 truck. Yes it does. She then asked if the truck seated 6 fireman. Yes it

does. Current trucks only hold 2 people.

Ald. Mitchell asked if purchasing a used truck from another municipality would work. Chief Marr stated that the price would be about the same but it would only last 10 years.

Ald. Mitchell asked if any of the older members of the Fire Department had anything to add to the discussion and Tom Adams said that he felt it should be done sooner than later because the prices are not going to go down.

Ald. Basting stated that option 4 not only gives us higher access it also provides an elevated stream.

Ald. Galle stated that this is not only an equipment issue but a personnel issue.

Mayor Bennett asked how many times the 55 ft ladder that is currently in use had been used. Chief Marr stated none. When the Royal caught fire a few years ago the City of Dodgeville provided their ladder truck.

Chief Marr stated that he had spoken to the Alexis Salesman at 4:30 p.m. There is a ladder available – a refurbished one year old ladder that could be placed on a truck for \$670,000. This would take 10-12 months to complete and deliver.

Ald. Rash asked if there are grants available for these types of issues. No one thought there was but Chief Marr said to reference Fema.gov.

Deputy Clerk Treasurer, Jodi Shemak, asked if the ladder truck on Option 4 would fit in the existing fire station. Chief Marr said yes.

Fireman Jim Ludlum and Ted Marr commented that they are not as many fireman as in the past and having this new truck In Option 4 would lessen the need for so many fireman to get the 55 ft. ladder set up and in place.

The discussion of leasing vs purchasing a truck was discussed. With leasing a truck it would have to be part of the budget and could not be added to our levy. A purchased truck with loan payments can be added on top of the levy limit.

This item will be placed on the August City Council meeting for possible action.

A motion was made by Ald. Schmit seconded by Ald. Basting to adjourn the June meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Debi Heisner
City Administrator
Clerk Treasurer