

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

BUDGET MEETING

MINUTES

August 27, 2009

The August 27, 2009 Special Meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 4:00 PM by President Berndt. Present were Commissioners Berndt, Adams, Guzman, Hemingway and Barrett. Chief Don Adams, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, EMS Division Chief Mike Pcolar, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas, Finance Specialist Anita Kressel, Billing Specialist Vanessa Koza and Secretary Janis Williams. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Berndt asked Chief Adams to give the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT on Agenda Items:

Linda Carter, Lehigh resident stated, No fire tax – it's unconstitutional.

\$100 Flat Fire Assessment Fee

Attorney Pringle stated the December 1 election date would have Lehigh Fire District bearing the entire cost. He presented alternate dates in 2010:

- Jan 26 – share cost
- March 9 – share cost
- April 13 – share cost
- Aug 24 – no cost – statewide election
- Nov.2 - no cost – statewide election

Attorney Pringle stated he needs an election date.

Commissioner Hemingway spoke about the tax and after re-thinking the tax, he would like to table this...not kill it but table it. Commissioner Guzman stated he agrees w/Commissioner Hemingway. He would like to see the soft numbers next year. People need more information, people need more time. Attorney Pringle stated we could freeze this until further notice.

Commissioner Hemingway motioned that we table the \$100 fire assessment fee indefinitely with a second from Commissioner Guzman. Motion carries....5-0.

CREDIT LINE – SunTrust responded to our request for a credit line. After reviewing the options, one option is an agreement to agree on a loan transaction in the future. The other option opens the loan. Commissioner Hemingway had concerns over some of the wording in the agreement. After some discussion, Commissioner Guzman motioned to table the Credit Line to the Sept 17 meeting with second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion carries.

BUDGET

Chief Adams stated we have three scenarios to present to the Board tonight and handed out budgets to reflect:

- 49% Status Quo
- 49% with Ambulance
- 49% without ambulance

Commissioner Adams questioned how these figures measure up with the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendation.

Commissioner Adams questioned the decrease in admin staff.

Commissioner Guzman questioned min staffing.

Commissioner Guzman stated the County offered us three ambulances. If we gave this to the county, we could man the stations and the engines correctly with the 2 in 2 out rule. If you put the Firefighters on the trucks and give the ambulances to Lee County, you're increasing the service to the public. It wouldn't cost any more money because they are already paying taxes to Lee County EMS.

Commissioner Berndt stated if we turn it over to the County, they will run it as they see fit. I don't think they are going to bend to our will. They are going to operate like they operate.

We will still have ALS services, just not transport services.

Commissioner Barrett asked what about the million dollar revenue from the ambulances. Chief stated w/o the ambulances we lose the revenue.

Commissioner Guzman stated if we continue to run the ambulance service, we are putting our firefighters in danger. We can provide a very good fire service – by giving the ambulance to Lee County EMS.

Chief reviewed the budgets with and w/o the ambulances.

As Chief reviewed the two budgets, Commissioners asked questions about the line items.

Commissioner Berndt stated if we turn the ambulance service over to the county, we still have the opportunity to collect outstanding invoices.

After much discussion Commissioner Guzman stated to go w/the ambulance budget. After we speak w/the County, we'll determine our next step in September.

Commissioner Berndt agreed with Commissioner Guzman. At this point it is direction from Commissioners to bring the budget to include the ambulances to the tentative budget hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Carter, Lehigh resident emailed the Chief a formal request to have the budget hearings on Sept 9th and 24th at a public location. on the 9th and 24th at a public location.

Keith Kaye, Lehigh resident is looking for direction. What did you use to come up with the numbers. If you want to sell this thing, and your numbers are above board, justify your numbers. This town here is single family homes. One of the highest paid around. Those that work for it – it's nice. For those that don't - it's not. Let's see your numbers to justify your money.

Kathy Kruse – She is concerned because the numbers keep changing. Anything less than status quo is doing a disservice to Lehigh, it's citizens and the men and women left in the dept. Her estimation with her numbers we should be going into next year with a large carryover.

Walt Stevens, President Local 1826 – the last meeting he felt there was a tremendous breakdown, but after listening to the Chief, things are bad. The safer grant is real. He gave a handout to people. You can't put a 4 man engine on a scene and leave it....that's patient abandonment.

Allan Schelm - Wanted to verify that no more people will be laid off and wanted to verify that if we get rid of the ambulances, the extra men will be put on the engines.

Jackie Wagner wanted a guarantee from Chief there is no more layoff's. Chief answered her stating it's a rumor. Chief stated to the best of his knowledge, he anticipates no more layoffs.

Eric Decru stated he hears discussion w/ambulance and w/o ambulances. There is an impact to the District. Let EMS bring in and supplement our ambulances.

Richard Georgian – thank you for taking the assessment fee off the table today. Put budget proposals on the website. Using the county services seems like a reasonable option to him. 2in 2out is reasonable.

James Bolla – sorry that people lost their jobs. Good to hear that Chief said no more cuts. I think the tax collector is cheating you guys. Something doesn't seem right with the taxes from the property appraiser. Instead of reactive become proactive. Get rid of the attorney.

Carmello Santos – had a couple of questions on the property appraiser and the tax collector. Hard times for all.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hemingway – appreciates what the union is doing. Asked a couple of questions from Walt and asked the community if they have seen our 5 year plan. Keith Kay – Chief to provide him the information that he wants – how you provide manpower, equipment, etc.

Adjourn 6:00pm

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT BUDGET FY 09/10

**49% w/
Ambulance (72)**

ACCOUNT TITLE	ACCOUNT NUMBER	REQUESTED 09/10	REQUESTED 10/11	REQUESTED 11/12	REQUESTED 12/13
EXPENSES					
Commission Salary	522-1105				
Administrative Salaries	522-1110	\$ 552,241	\$ 552,241	\$ 552,241	\$ 552,241
Regular Salaries	522-1120	\$ 5,434,250	\$ 5,434,250	\$ 5,434,250	\$ 5,434,250
Holiday Pay	522-1130	\$ 48,144	\$ 48,144	\$ 48,144	\$ 48,144
Overtime	522-1140	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Sick Time	522-1150	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,000
Annual Sick Time Pay	522-1160	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Payroll Tax Expense	522-1210	\$ 470,830	\$ 470,830	\$ 470,830	\$ 470,830
Retirement	522-1220	\$ 1,386,449	\$ 1,433,789	\$ 1,433,789	\$ 1,433,789
Retirement Liability	522-1221	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Group Insurance	522-1230	\$ 1,718,179	\$ 1,375,919	\$ 1,513,511	\$ 1,619,457
Worker's Compensation	522-1240	\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
Unemployment Compensation	522-1250	\$ 429,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Property Appraiser	522-3311	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 140,000
Legal Fees	522-3312	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Medical Director	522-3313	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Physicals	522-3314	\$ 4,920	\$ 43,493	\$ 4,920	\$ 43,493
Land Taxes	522-3315	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Tax Collector Commission	522-3316	\$ 470,000	\$ 391,574	\$ 371,995	\$ 390,595
Actuarial Study	522-3317			\$ 15,000	
Miscellaneous Charges	522-3319	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,900	\$ 8,100
Audit	522-3320	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Professional Service Fees	522-3321	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Outside Maintenance	522-3342	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Ambulance Billing	522-3343	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5 Year Plan	522-3344	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TRAVEL/COMMISSION	522-3400	\$ -			
COMMUNICATIONS	522-3410	\$ 105,000	\$ 108,150	\$ 111,395	\$ 114,736
Electric	522-3431	\$ 80,000	\$ 82,400	\$ 84,872	\$ 87,418
Water/Garbage	522-3432	\$ 26,500	\$ 27,295	\$ 28,114	\$ 28,957
RENTALS	522-3440	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
INSURANCE (GENERAL)	522-3450	\$ 130,000	\$ 136,500	\$ 143,325	\$ 150,491
Building Maintenance	522-3461	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,930	\$ 32,888	\$ 33,875
Equipment Maintenance	522-3462	\$ 40,000	\$ 41,200	\$ 42,436	\$ 43,709
Vehicle Maintenance	522-3463	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
Maintenance Contracts	522-3464	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000
PROMOTIONAL	522-3480	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Motel/Travel/Per Diem	522-3491	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,180	\$ 6,365	\$ 6,556
Training	522-3492	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Administrative/Board	522-3493	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200
Administrative/Elections	522-3494	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative/Office	522-3495	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Contingencies	522-3496	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
OFFICE	522-3510	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Department Supplies	522-3521	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Paramedic Supplies	522-3522	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Gas/Oil	522-3523	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000

Uniforms	522-3524	\$	17,494	\$	18,369	\$	19,287	\$	20,251
Propane	522-3525	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000
Computer Supplies	522-3526	\$	34,551	\$	36,279	\$	37,367	\$	38,488
Prevention Supplies	522-3527								
Janitorial Supplies	522-3528	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000
Training Supplies	522-3529	\$	10,000	\$	13,000	\$	13,000	\$	13,000
Shop Supplies	522-3530	\$	6,000	\$	6,000	\$	6,000	\$	6,000
Capital Buildings	522-6620								
Capital Improvements/Other	522-6630								
Capital Machinery and Equipment	522-6640	\$	-						
Capital Grants	522-6641								
Capital Impact Fees	522-6642								
Capital Computers	522-6643			\$	5,000				
Capital Future Growth Fund	522-6644								
Capital Vehicles	522-6645								
Capital Const. In Progress	522-6650								
Principal	522-7710								
Interest on Loans	522-7720								
Interest on Credit Line	522-7730								
Collection Fees	522-9000	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	10,000
Subtotal - Expenditures Before Reserves		\$	12,482,058	\$	11,746,542	\$	11,857,328	\$	12,029,081
Operating Reserves	522-9900	\$	4,460,021	\$	2,278,583	\$	1,614,363		
Capital Reserves	522-9901	\$	3,000,000	\$	3,000,000				
Disaster Reserves	522-9905	\$	1,000,000						
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$	20,942,079	\$	17,025,125	\$	13,471,691	\$	12,029,081
Taxable Value		\$	3,263,115,540	\$	2,610,492,432	\$	2,479,967,810	\$	2,603,966,201
REVENUE									
			-49%		-20%		-5%		
Ad Valorem	311-0100	\$	9,299,879	\$	7,439,903	\$	7,067,908	\$	7,421,304
Interest	361-0100	\$	20,000	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	15,000
Other Govt Revenue	369-0102	\$	12,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000
Misc. Income	369-0100	\$	60,000	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$	50,000
Inspection Fees	342-0500	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$	50,000
Ambulance Billing (Net)	342-0600	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000
Donations	336-0100	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200
Subtotal - Revenues Before Carryforward		\$	10,442,079	\$	8,565,103	\$	8,193,108	\$	8,551,504
Carry Forward		\$	10,500,000	\$	8,460,021	\$	5,278,583	\$	1,614,363
GRAND TOTAL REVENUES		\$	20,942,079	\$	17,025,124	\$	13,471,691	\$	10,165,867
		\$	0	\$	(0)	\$	-	\$	(1,863,214)