

TOWN OF PRIMROSE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes
Thursday, September 21st, 2023, 7:30 pm
8468 County Hwy A, Verona, WI 53593

1. Call to Order: 7:30 Dale Judd, Martha Gibson, Alex Elkins, Dave Garfoot were present. Peter Kaminsky and Kristin Revello were present representing Mount Horeb Fire and EMS.
2. Public comments: Only agenda items may have action taken. None
3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Mount Horeb Area Joint Fire Department 2024 budget request.

Dale Judd explained Deputy Chief and employee benefits were the largest budgetary increase. And new CPR equipment. The Department needs another full-time person, and another part-time person.

The increase in fire budget will be off-set by a supplementary revenue from the State, known as ACT 12. An portion of Wisconsin sales tax will be coming to the town each year.

Alex questioned the origin of the supplementary fund. Martha explained that Shared Revenue used to be shared with towns, but during the Walker administration. Due to deterioration of infrastructure, the ACT 12 funds revert to the original distribution, including towns.

Alex: if Fire and EMS use it all up, it isn't available for roads. He feels that we should apply the funds to roads.

Alex stated that Fire, EMS and the Schools continually ask for more money. Seeing a 24% increase is not something that our residents want to see. Residents do complain about the new fire hall, as a big expense. He just wanted to pass on the views he hears from residents.

Alex asked that MHAFD send the justification (call response times, being able to provide enough firefighters and ems workers to provide safety) for the website. A plain-language explanation for residents would be helpful.

Martha stated that she was waiting for the \$42K to spend on roads. But immediately was taken away from by both fire departments. Need it for bridges, roads, etc. Primrose is seriously behind on infrastructure.

Peter stated that it can be used for infrastructure, but fire departments are required to prove "maintenance of effort" (qualifying to keep response times acceptable) in order to get the funds at all. So the Towns need to spend enough to support the emergency services, then use the remainder for roads.

Martha wanted to verify that the towns are required to show support of Fire Departments to show maintenance of effort. If the Fire Departments don't need it, we could use all of it on roads.

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Paul read from a summary of possible uses; law enforcement, fire, ems, roads. Expenditure on fire and ems are required for use of the funds at all. The towns do not have to demonstrate "maintenance of effort" for roads.

Paul also said that Mount Horeb Fire Department has gotten 117LK and 300K funding from federal sources. In addition, private donations have paid for a platform for the ladders to aid in cutting holes in burning roofs. Private grants have been secured for chest compression equipment.

Martha moved to approve the proposed Mount Horeb Fire Department 2024 budget. Dale seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Adjournment 8:17pm Dale

Minutes submitted by Ruth Hansen

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