

CASS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
HEARING TO INCURE INDEBTEDNESS TO THE TAXPAYERS
OF CASS COUNTY FIRE DSITRICT #1
NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Call to Order

The Cass County Fire District #1 (CCFD1) Board met at: 5:30 p.m. at Cass County Fire District 1 Station at 1444 Holland Street, Logansport, Indiana. Meeting was called to order by Rex Danely, Chairman. Members present were Rex Danely, Chairman; Steve Crispen, Vice Chairman; Dave Patty, Member at Large; Stephen Fisher, Chief and Bridget Enyeart, LPN, Fiscal Officer/Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS SIGN-IN SHEET

Chairman Rex Danely requested all members of the public wishing to speak regarding the Hearing to Incur Indebtedness to Taxpayers is to record their full name, address, telephone number, township, and their email address on the sign-in sheet.

PUBLIC NOTICE READING

Cass County Fire District Fiscal Officer Bridget Enyeart read the Public Notice, which was published in the Pharos Tribune on October 27, 2023. The ten (10) day prior to the meeting notice requirement was met. The Pharos Tribune is the only newspaper publication in Cass County Indiana. Additionally, the notice was posted on the Cass County Fire District's window at the meeting location of 1444 Holland Street, Logansport, IN. 46947 on October 27, 2023, next to the Public Meeting Agenda.

REVIEW OF BIDS FOR EQUIPMENT

Bridget Enyeart, Fiscal Officer discussed that all bids were reviewed and voted on in a public meeting held on October 11, 2023, at 5:30 pm. Since this meeting is an advertised special meeting, the board will again review and vote on all items.

The truck committee is making a recommendation for the CCFD1 to move forward with purchasing the 2023 Spartan Metro Star Pumper especially since we have no idea how much longer we are going to be waiting on E-3 motor repair part. Due to the hours on our Fleet and the age of the equipment, it is in the best interest of our constituent's welfare and safety to make an emergency purchase. Chief Fisher indicated we simply cannot wait 500 – 1000 days for a new apparatus to be built at this time. Chief Fisher has a special opportunity to purchase the Spartan Pumper as it was built and previously committed to another department that ended up not following through with the purchase. The special pricing opportunity through procurement makes this the most affordable option for our taxpayers as well as obtaining the apparatus within 45 days of signing the contract to purchase. The Chief asked that the Board vote to move forward with the purchase of this apparatus and direct HR/Fiscal Officer, Bridget Enyeart to start the process of requesting new debt with the county, obtain financing and sign the contract to purchase. Steve Crispen made a motion to move forward with the purchase as outlined by the Chief and Fiscal Officer. Dave Patty seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Car 1 was changed from the Chief's vehicle in July 2023 to an emergency medical response vehicle. Since it is a smaller SUV and it is not a 4-wheel drive vehicle, the Committee is recommending that the Board replace the apparatus if the Board is going to continue making this our primary emergency medical response vehicle. The Chief feels this will be safer for both our firefighters in the winter and for the community when responding to a call. The committee had contacted the State of Indiana to review their procurement fleet and was directed to Kelley Chevrolet in Ft. Wayne Indiana. Kelley Chevrolet has a 2023 Tahoe SSV that was built for another fire department. When it was completed, that fire department did not get the grant that would allow them to purchase the truck which is now making it available for purchase. The sticker price of the 2023 Tahoe is \$53,887.00. Kelley Chevrolet through Indiana

Procurement and special pricing program would sell it to us at the discount price of \$44,030 which is a \$9,857 savings from purchasing it brand new. Chief Fisher is asking that this vehicle be wrapped into the purchase of the 2023 Spartan Metro Star Pumper and asked that the Board vote to move forward with the purchase of the 2023 Tahoe SSV and direct HR/Fiscal Officer, Bridget Enyeart to start the process of requesting new debt with the county, obtain financing and sign the contract to purchase. Rex Danely made a motion to move forward with the purchase as outlined by the Chief and Fiscal Officer. Dave Patty seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Since we are going to need to obtain a new debt levy for 2025 for the purchases and obtain a loan for the 2023 Spartan Metro Star Pumper and the 2023 Tahoe SSV, the Indiana Bond Bank had discussed with the HR/Fiscal Officer in the past that if there is other equipment that was needing immediate purchase, they could wrap that in with the purchase of a new apparatus. The SCBA equipment will be expiring in approximately 1 ½ years. Chief Fisher presented the board with three estimates (Scott, Drager and MES) to review for the replacement of the SCBA Equipment with the recommendation to move forward with MES's quote to purchase 8 Air-packs, 16 cylinders, 11 facepieces, 3 facepieces with direct radio interface and fit testing at a price of \$81,055.91 and to allow the HR/Fiscal Officer to wrap this in with the request to the Cass County Council to issue new debt and obtain financing. The board reviewed and compared all quotes. Steve Crispen made a motion to approve the Chief's request to move forward as outlined with MES's quote. Rex Danely seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

REVIEW OF LOAN BIDS FROM LENDERS

Fiscal Officer presented the Board with the following Bids:

Bid #1. Security Federal Savings Bank – Local Bank with two offers:

- \$690,000 at 5.5% Interest and \$2,000 Loan Fee - Bond Opinion to be paid by CCFD#1.
- \$690,000 at 5.625% Interest and \$750 Loan Fee - Bond Opinion to be paid by CCFD#1.

Amortization Scheduled were reviewed as well as principal, interest, and payments for each offer.

Bid #2. Through Indiana Bond Bank HELP Program – Crossroads Bank – One Offer:

- \$700,000 at 5.759% Interest and \$350 documentation fee due at lease commencement.

Amortization Scheduled were reviewed as well as principal, interest, and payments for each offer.

Bid #3. Through Indiana Bond Bank HELP Program – US Bancorp Government Leasing & Finance:

- \$700,000 at 5.75 %, \$900 HELP Fee – The quoted rates contemplate a deposit in the amount of \$2,250,000 from the Indiana State Treasurer. Rates would be 20-30 basis points higher without the deposit.

Amortization Scheduled were reviewed as well as principal, interest, and payments for each offer.

Fiscal Officer Bridget Enyeart presented the Board with an estimation of the tax consequence of obtaining the loan for the equipment over the course of 6 years. A cost estimation was passed out which was prepared by independent fiscal taxing consultant, Nichole Franklin of Peters/Franklin LTD. After reviewing all amortization schedules, bids and tax estimation, Rex Danely made a motion to approve:

Bid #1. Security Federal Savings Bank – Local Bank with \$690,000 at 5.5% Interest and \$2,000 Loan Fee - Bond Opinion to be paid by CCFD#1 and loan term for 6 years. Steve Crispen seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

DISCUSSION

Chairman Rex Danely asked if there was any further discussion regarding the equipment to be purchased, bids for the equipment, bids from lenders, or the tax consequences to the taxpayers. The Board indicated they did not have any further questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Rex Danely opened the floor to public comments or further discussion from the public regarding the equipment to be purchased, bids for the equipment, bids from lenders, or the tax consequences to the taxpayers. One constituent asked what CCFD#1 was going to do with the old apparatus it was replacing. Rex Danely indicated they would try to utilize as much of the equipment off the old apparatus as they could and then sell the apparatus. No other questions, comments or concerns were expressed by members of the public.

VOTE ON INCURRING DEBT

The HR/Fiscal Officer read the Resolution to Incur Debt to the Cass County Fire District Board of Trustees. Chairman Rex Danely moved to approve and sign the Resolution to incur Debt. Dave Patty seconded. **Motion passed 3-0. All Board Members Signed AYE and stated the same.**

REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

The HR/Fiscal Officer discussed with the board that because the Board just picked a loan program today, it is unknown what the lender requirements will be regarding the distribution of loan proceeds. If loan proceeds are deposited into our checking account, we will need an Additional Appropriation with the Cass County Council to spend the money out of our 2023 Budget to purchase the equipment. This is a separate requirement and public notice from the action of incurring debt. The Additional Appropriation Notice was read to the Board and Published in the Pharos Tribune on November 3, 2023, requesting \$750,000 to be spent out of the Capital Projects Fund which will be created for the new debt fund once completed in 2025. In the event we do have 10 taxpayers that remonstrate, we still need to appropriate the money for all equipment as contracts have been signed for both the emergency medical vehicle and the new fire truck. Rex Danely made a motion to move forward with the request to the Cass County Council regarding the additional appropriation. Steve Crispen seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.** Request forwarded to the Cass County Council for their public meeting on and resolution on November 17, 2023, at 9:00 am.

DISCUSSION

Chairman Rex Danely asked if there was any further discussion regarding the Additional Appropriation. The Board indicated they did not have any further questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Rex Danely opened the floor to public comments or further discussion from the public regarding the Additional Appropriation. No questions, comments or concerns were expressed by members of the public.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

All items discussed and voted on at this meeting will be forwarded to the Cass County Fire District's legislative fiscal body, the Cass County Council for their review and consideration in an advertised public meeting for November 17, 2023, at 9:00 am. at 200 Court Park, Second Floor/Room 200, Logansport, IN 46947.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Rex Danely made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Patty seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget I. Enyeart, LPN, HR/Fiscal Officer