

**Valley Fire District**  
**Board of Trustees Special Planning Meeting**  
**June 8, 2016, 5:30 PM**

The special planning meeting of the Valley Fire District Board was held on Monday, June 6, 2016 at the Valley Fire District (VFD), located at 5287 Dogwood Drive, Peninsula, Ohio 44264 to discuss the renewal of the Village of Boston Heights contract. The following were in attendance.

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Fire Clerk</b>	<b>Legal Counsel</b>
Amy Anderson, Chair	Chief Charlie Riedel	Catherine Anson	Ed Pullenkings
Dan Schneider	Assistant Chief Dave Morehouse		
Richard Slocum	Captain Ed Yost		

Distributed at the meeting:

- Number of Incidents by District
- NFPA 1901 Recommended Standard Replacement
- List of Vehicles

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

1. The initial three-year contract with the Village of Boston Heights (VBH) is up for renewal this year. Everyone was in agreement that the relationship was a success in terms of ease of working with VBH and in providing the expected efficiencies: 24-hour coverage and increase in response time. The increase in the number of calls and peaks times were as expected.
2. In looking ahead to the next contract period, greater efficiencies and economies must be taken into account. Residents have been asking about the increased wear and tear on the equipment, which the board recognizes as a major concern. The board reviewed the material provided by Chief Riedel and considered additional information provided by Riedel and Captain Yost regarding new estimates of tire life and the potential for damage to vehicles caused by calcium chloride spray instead of road salt, a change mandated by the EPA.
3. The use of two stations and two sets of vehicles and equipment cannot be maintained at current rates. One option would be to close the VBH station and work out of the Peninsula station, which is in better condition and is geographically central in the District.
4. Another option, if VBH would want to keep their station in use, would be the following additional costs to them:
  - a. Staff the VBH station during the day. This person would be responsible for responding to fire calls in the District and other duties such as inspections. The Peninsula station would remain staffed with two persons during the day.
  - b. Equipment would be consolidated with some vehicles sold, some replaced, and some kept at VBH.
  - c. VBH may be responsible for the maintenance and replacement costs of their equipment.
5. Additional charges expected in the upcoming contract are the following:
  - a. Hydrant flushing
  - b. Possible charge for annual building inspection given the increase in business in VBH
  - c. A percentage increase over previous years

The board agreed to put together preliminary information on options and their costs and to meet again to review, after which the information will be presented to the VBH Safety Board (Ron Antal, Heather Davis, Ron Fenn) at an upcoming meeting to start the discussion on the contract renewal.

The new contract, similar to the last one, will be effective for a period to coincide with levy renewals, in this case for a period of five years, which will provide a method to re-budget should VBH not renew next time.

The board agreed that the current contract was mutually beneficial and would like to see the contract renewed. Moving ahead will require a careful look at resources and costs.

On a related note, Chief Riedel informed the board that Northfield Center Township would still like to consider a proposal from the VFD. The Macedonia proposal is no longer being considered, leaving the VFD and Northfield Village as possible partners. The board would need to carefully consider the advantages and costs for any proposed partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

#### **ACTION STEPS:**

Riedel and Yost

- Find out the dates of upcoming VBH Safety Board meetings.
- Determine if it is possible to charge for inspections in Summit County.
- Compile statistics on response time.
- Develop costs for selling some vehicles and replacing other according to the timeline, allowing for a recommended 5% increase in costs per year.

Anson

- Find out data on insurance receipts over the last several years.
- Determine types of capital expenses over the last three years.

Slocum:

- Develop a PowerPoint presentation outlining advantages, providing background data, and proposing options for the Safety Board upon receipt of data outlined above.