VASHON ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

Date: 06/27/2017
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: 10020 SW Bank Rd, EOC Room

REGULAR MEETING

Present: Camille Staczek, Chair
Brigitte Schran-Brown, Vice-Chair
David Hoffmann, Commissioner
Candy McCullough, Commissioner
Ron Turner, Commissioner
Charles H. Krimmert, Fire Chief
Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

Absent: Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief

Guests: Wes Paulsen, Matt McCann, Laura Neuman, Susan Reimer, Jan Milligan, Josh Munger, Tom Bruskotter, Josh Dueweke, Darren Lenz, Ken Jackson, Jojo Weller, Katja Hurt, Elaine Ott-Rocheford, Ron Smothermon, Doris Paulsen and several other members of the public.

Amendments to Agenda

None.

Approval of 06/13/17 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

"I move we approve the 6/13/17 Regular Meeting minutes."

MINUTES APPROVED, 5-0

Voucher Approval

Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

"I move that we approve the referenced vouchers and transfers as detailed in Administrative Memorandum 06.27.2017-1."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

Chief's Report

Chief Krimmert went over the Chief's report (copy attached).

- It's A/C Larsen's 16th anniversary with the District as he was hired on his birthday, which is today. He is excused as being off work.
- At the end of May our expenditures should be at 41% of the budget; we're at 44% due to unforeseen expenses. Considering our deficient budget, this is actually very encouraging. At the second meeting in July, the chief will go over the financial status with the Board.

- Concerning Grievance 10-001; while the chief has only informally discussed with the union, he is pleased that our insurance company accepted the claim and has paid all but our deductible on the loss.
- Tonight is the chief's last white board discussion what next steps he recommends to move forward.

New Business

SOP 8005 Transportation Fees

Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

"I make a motion we adopt SOP 8005, Transportation Fees."

MOTION PASSES, 4-1

- According to other Washington fire districts and departments, their charges run between $600-$900. We're in the mix at $700.

Resolution 17-367 Establishing a Facilities Reserve Fund

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we approve Resolution 17-367 to institute the Facilities Reserve Fund."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

Old Business

District Overviews

- Chief Krimmert provided a white board discussion recapping his earlier discussions to clearly and better define the state of the District's staff, fleet, facilities, work and financials.
- In "taking a stab" at how we got here, the chief stated that we as a District diligently focused on the nuts and bolts of operations, immediate problems and lost track of the big picture. Now we have a new chief and new Assistant Chief with new perspectives.
- The chief did not expect or want an answer tonight about a levy lid lift. He has spent his past five months thinking and researching with great diligence about where we are, what we need and why.
- Today we have choices: "Do Nothing," "Stall," "Stabilize" or "Recovery." Today, without a levy, we're in a serious situation with low funding and reserves. The chief would be looking at layoffs. He couldn't implement a part-time program (to help with staffing) without funding. We enjoy 40 volunteers but while 19 live on island, only nine are emergency responders (2 firefighters, 5 EMTs and 2 FF/EMTs). With a minimum levy lid lift, we're about the same. Stabilization requires a larger levy, increasing our part-time core. The reason he is not looking at hiring more career (full-time) personnel is because, for the money, he can reach an aspirational goal to have more people (5-7) on each shift.
- The assessor's office won't commit to numbers in forecasting so he based his projections on the Beachcomber's article that assessed values for 2018 tax roles have risen by 17%. That means our rate will be dropping an estimated 11 cents. That would mean in 2018, the District would be bankrupt.

- A levy lid lift of $1.25 is a stall. In a nutshell, in 2018 we would have a $3.6 million budget which includes a modest 3% increase, but we'd only have a surplus of $40,000. Our reserve would drop $500,000 due to this year's deficit.
- A $1.50 is the maximum levy lid lift without bonds or an excess levy. Our tax rate has dropped from 1990 when we went for the last levy lid lift of $1.50. Today, it has dropped to $0.93 and has gone up and down over the years. The maximum constraint for all junior taxing districts is $5.90 with Parks junior to us. For Parks, he believed their $0.49 will drop to $0.42, but we could ask for the $1.50 without much of a drop to Parks.

Comments and Questions:

- Both the Parks and Fire are capped. We would receive $1.00 at protected level 5 and $0.50 at a level 6.

Chief Krimmert:

- Concerning our fleet, we are not replacing any vehicles now; but we could get a new aid car if we're at a $1.38 levy. We need new apparatus because 40% (+/-) of our fleet is beyond the industry safety standard. Two of the five fire engines are no longer operational and one is fast approaching that. Aid55, our newest aid car, is five years old and has 105,000 miles on it.
- Our mission is saving lives and fire suppression. At a $4 million budget ($1.50 levy) with $780,000 surplus, that surplus would be divided into several funds. We love living in a rural area but we make it harder because keeping Vashon rural takes land off the tax roles.
- The estimated cost to taxpayers takes into account the median house price ($452,400) times the tax rate of $1.50 per $1,000 assessed value which would amount to less than an additional $1.00 a day to save the community. We are at the same rate that we were back in 1990.

Comments:

- The Parks people are grateful for our (VIFR) work (and have been the recipient of our assistance) but also want Parks to work. Looking at 5, 10, 15 years future, King County has taken most of their levy. If they move just five cents, Parks is toast.
- New construction has been booming, so the county is making money with permitting fees and getting 1%. The chief deliberately left a month for community engagement, discussion and for the Board to deliberate. He expressed appreciation for the attendees and asked that they share the information with friends.
- The Board hasn't engaged community but lack of attendance at meetings is a two-way street.
- It needs to be understood by the community what it takes for a fire department to fight a fire. Twice in the last three weeks an aid car has broken down; once enroute to a call.
- There are a lot of misconceptions. For instance, our clean, shiny aid cars are really old cars with high miles and there are safety reasons to replace apparatus. We need to overcome myths.
- When (a member of the public) has dinner parties and discussed (the situation with the Fire District) with others the awareness is just not there. Could VIFR hold community forums? The District could have a booth at the Farmer's Market. Some

people have had to be put on hold calling 9-1-1. Here, a third call could result in no help from the fire district.

- The chief broke down each category in black and white. Commissioner McCullough advised that the chief did a stellar job on his overviews. We need to be at the Saturday market, town forums and so on.
- It would be good to have all the taxing districts there.
- Now we have to determine our plan, get everyone on the same page, recognize our failures and look at the future. The Board needs to come to a consensus, get support and get everyone else to be an ambassador.
- Another town needed a new engine. They educated the school kids and the kids educated the parents. The kids' ideas to fundraise got the parents involved.
- Commissioner Schran-Brown is working on some video shorts for the Vashon Theatre.
- We have to start the process for a tax increase now in order to purchase a new aid car. A new engine is expensive ($500,000 or more).
- The chief decided that there is more value to keep the Bennedsen Residence for beds (for volunteers and part-time employees). While the decision is for now to keep the house (once it is sold, it's a onetime influx of cash) both the north end and south end properties could be sold. CERT uses those stations in an emergency, but could be happy with a connex.
- The fee-for-transport will only pay for some part-time firefighters. Having a larger staff on island helps with fire calls. Only 50% of those billed for transports will pay.
- The VIP membership (similar to Air Care) will add an additional source of income.
- A question was asked if it wasn't more important to rebuild credibility, answer the question, "How did we get here," then get feedback and wait six months for the levy lid lift. The chief responded that while he appreciated that thought, he felt it was important to try now because the levy could fail in November. Then the District could try again.
- A clarification was made that while we're now paying $0.93 (per $1,000 assessed value) going to $1.50 is only $0.57 cents more. That's less than one dollar a day (for a house value at the median) to fund the fire district.
- Citizens sometimes ask why several aid cars respond at once to a call. It was noted that we need two people per car to respond, two to transport, but additional staff can provide radio communications (sometimes with Doctor or ferry), assist with taking vitals and lifting heavy patients. In addition, if the call could become more serious, two King County paramedics may also respond. Additional staff can split off to a subsequent call.
- The chief advised he would like to move some staff around to assist us with providing information through social media.
- To the request that newspaper articles be formatted in a certain way, reporter Susan Riemer responded that only 99 people read the article on District finances online. More may have read the paper edition.
- Commissioner Schran-Brown noted that when there were commissioner candidate debates after school and parks candidates debated, the room emptied out for the fire commissioners.

- It was noted that we don't want to panic the public, there is a real factor that when you call 9-1-1 you expect assistance and firefighter can't go into a fire unless there are at least four people responding.
- We could put posters up at the farmers market, Thriftway, put up a thermometer at the corner. We could also talk to Michael Soltman who has been successful through his school district newsletter. The chief is working through a community team which includes Matt Sullivan, who was a financial officer here.
- It was noted that we are a rural community but the community has large city response expectations.
- Because District services are life safety, we need to tell the community what we need to do that job.
- The chief will be summarizing his reports for a mailer.
- It was noted the community has been asked for a lot of money this year: the Center for Performing Arts, Vashon Community Care, the pool and the track for the school. We have a generous community, but there's a limit. While this will be one more request, it is for public safety and is the most important.
- It was noted that "done" is better than "perfect." Adults have about a 10 minute attention span, so sound bites need to be short and that's why social media is so effective. One of our chaplains found out about the meeting while looking at Facebook on the ferry. We should extend an invitation of "Come share how VIFR has helped you!"
- Make posts interesting, relevant, share between Grannie's and VIFR and maybe parks. North Kitsap has a successful Facebook page posting about accidents and traffic to make sure the information gets out.

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we schedule a one hour special meeting to discuss the condition of the fire district at 7-8 p.m. this Thursday and a second meeting on Thursday, July 6 same time, same place."

- We could produce the "Readers Digest" versions of the chief's presentations to get the information out. Then at the next meeting, we make a plan and clarify it is only 57cents more. We could invite the other junior taxing districts. Everyone is interested in whether taxes are being raised taxes.

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

General Comments

- The Board thanked all the attendees for coming and caring. They also thanked the District members that attended for their dedication and being able to withstand the pressures (of staff shortages).
- The Board also thanked the chief for his time and effort.

For the Good of the Order

Documents Signed

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, 07/11/17 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room

Approved this 11th day of July, 2017.

Camille Staczek, Chair

Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

Chief's Report
for the
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
of
27 June 2017

As a brief overview of the District, focusing on highlights since the board's last meeting, please accept the following information:

1. **Overarching Operational Topics**:
    a. With execution of an agreement and some training for crews we anticipate the FFT (Fee for Transport) program having a 'soft start' next month.

2. **Overarching Training Topics**:
    a. It is our intent to implement training on the new AED units (secured via the ALS transition) next month and put them in service before the end of the third quarter…

3. **Service/Call Volumes**:
    a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 739 calls…
        i. Based on the averaging of last year's calls we should statistically be around 785, 46 calls higher…

4. **Staff/Personnel**:
    a. The Part Time Paid (PTP) program's advancement is slightly behind schedule
        i. With tonight's presentation complete I hope to address the necessary details to allow advertisement(s) to be prepared so as to hire necessary staffing…
        ii. Additionally Local 4189 & the Administration have agreed to meet to discuss the PTP program…

5. **Fleet**:
    a. Quint 55 recently required service to its 'turbo' by Detroit Motors. It was put back in service Friday morning…
    b. Aid 56 had a rear tire fail via an explosive decompression during routine maintenance. Later the same day A56 had a mechanical problem in route to an aid call Thursday night (22 Jun 17), fortunately a medic unit was already on scene and A551 was in route. Problem was corrected late Monday (26 Jun 17) and the car was put back in service this morning…
    c. The surplus skid of Brush 56 was purchased by Enumclaw Fire for $3,500. The funds will be added to the Fleet Reserve account. With this sale BR 56 is no more and the pickup shall be reassigned based on needs…

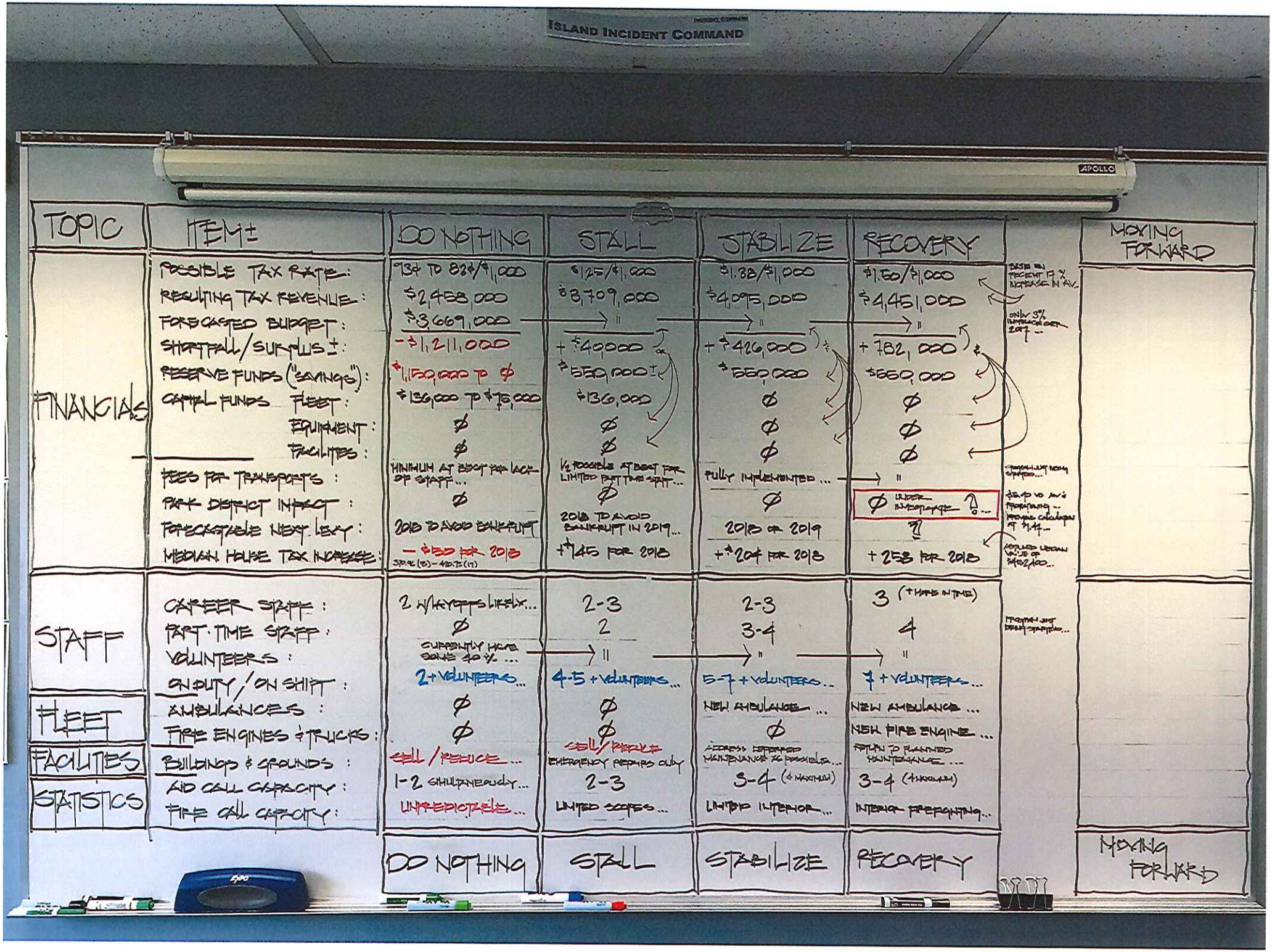
6. **Facilities**:
    a. Alterations to the Training Center are going to be made to improve the Gear Store & Wash Room…

7. **Financials**:
    a. Talks with Washington State Ferries are on-going; overpayment recovery is looking dubious at this time…
    b. In support of retooling of the budget's format we respectfully request we put off the typical end of month budget review as we work out the 'bugs'…
    c. I have briefly discussed Grievance 10-001 with union representative however we have not formally met to advance negotiations…

8. **Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s)**:
    a. Tonight's District Overview is the last of the organized presentations and includes Options for your consideration and study…

Conclusion of Report

Charles H. Krimmert, Chief
Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
1 206 463 2405 (Office) Extension 301
1 206 300 0952 (Mobile)


ISLAND INCIDENT COMMAND
APOLLO
TOPIC
ITEMS
DO NOTHING
STALL
STABILIZE
RECOVERY
MOVING FORWARD
FINANCIALS
POSSIBLE TAX RATE:
RESULTING TAX REVENUE:
FORECASTED BUDGET:
SHORTFALL/SURPLUS ±:
RESERVE FUNDS ("SAVINGS"):
CAPITAL FUNDS FLEET:
EQUIPMENT:
FACILITIES:
FEES FOR TRANSPORTS:
PARK DISTRICT IMPACT:
FORECASTABLE NEXT LEVY:
MEDIAN HOUSE TAX INCREASE:
$1.34 TO $2.84/$1,000
$2,458,000
$3,669,000
-$1,211,000
$1,150,000 TO Ø
$136,000 TO $76,000
Ø
Ø
MINIMUM AT BEST FOR LACK OF STAFF...
Ø
2018 TO AVOID BANKRUPT
— $150 FOR 2018
$1.25/$1,000
$3,709,000
+$40000
$550,000
$136,000
Ø
Ø
½ POSSIBLE AT BEST FOR LIMITED PART TIME STAFF...
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2018 TO AVOID BANKRUPT IN 2019...
+$45 FOR 2018
$1.88/$1,000
$4,095,000
+$426,000
$550,000
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Ø
Ø
FULLY IMPLEMENTED...
Ø
2018 OR 2019
+$204 FOR 2018
$1.60/$1,000
$4,451,000
+782,000
$550,000
Ø
Ø
Ø
Ø UNDER MAINTENANCE ?...
+258 FOR 2018
BASED ON RECENT 1% INCREASE IN AV...
ONLY 3% INCREASE OVER 2017...
STAFF
CAREER STAFF:
PART-TIME STAFF:
VOLUNTEERS:
ON DUTY/ON SHIFT:
2 W/HOPEFULLY...
Ø
CURRENTLY HAVE GONE 40%...
2+VOLUNTEERS...
2-3
2
4-5+VOLUNTEERS...
2-3
3-4
5-7+VOLUNTEERS...
3 (+HOME VISITS)
4
7+VOLUNTEERS...
FLEET
AMBULANCES:
FIRE ENGINES & TRUCKS:
Ø
Ø
SELL/REDUCE...
1-2 SIMULTANEOUSLY...
UNPREDICTABLE...
Ø
Ø
SELL/REDUCE
EMERGENCY REPAIRS ONLY
NEW AMBULANCE...
Ø
ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AS POSSIBLE...
NEW AMBULANCE...
NEW FIRE ENGINE...
APPLY TO PLANNED MAINTENANCE...
FACILITIES
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:
Ø
LIMITED SCOPES...
LIMITED INTERIOR...
INTERIOR REFRESHING...
STATISTICS
AID CALL CAPACITY:
FIRE CALL CAPACITY:
2-3
LIMITED SCOPES...
3-4 (+MAXIMUM)
3-4 (+MAXIMUM)
DO NOTHING
STALL
STABILIZE
RECOVERY
MOVING FORWARD