BEMIDJI FIRE DEPARTMENT LONG RANGE PLANNING
CITY OF BEMIDJI
Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2017

**Present:** Dave Hoefer, Jan Heuer, Kevin Bahr, Mel Milender, Ron Eischens, Russ Hiltz, Nate Mathews, Michael Meehlhause
**Absent:** Kim Bryngleson

**Call to Order**
The meeting began at 7:05 a.m.

**Minutes**
Motion by Eischens, seconded by Hiltz, to approve the February 2, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Budget Update
Eischens reminded the group about the call back pay adjustment that needed to be made after the 2016 budget was approved. Therefore, there will be a $29,000 increase in the 2016 budget.

Ladder Truck Funding
Eischens stated that the City's financial results exceeded his expectations. Because of that, and with Council approval, Eischens feels the City could internally finance the ladder truck expected to be purchased in 2019. With the financing of Fire Station 2 and this ladder truck, the City will have met its capital requirements for the next 10-15 years. Upon approval, the process for purchasing the ladder truck would begin in the fall of 2017.

Fee for Services
In addition to the reimbursement program, Hoefer would like to discuss fees for service. Hoefer stated that the airport rate will be reviewed with Karen in the near future. Currently, the fire department is reimbursed $58.00 per flight. The emergency response fees for service can be billed up to $250.00 per call in the City. If the billing is associated with the property located in the city limits, the amount can be accessed to their taxes. If the billing is not within the city limits, it is turned over to collections. The emergency response fees for services in the rural areas are billed to the individual or their insurance in the amount of $500.00. If the bill is not paid by insurance or the individual, the bill is not pursued further. Year to date collection for the Rural is $1,500 and $5,000 for the City. Concern with billing emergency response is hesitation of calling in a fire because of being billed for that call.

Hoefer stated that code review enforcement is provided at no cost to projects in the City and in the rural areas. He feels there is potential in collection fees for those services. The estimated revenue that could be collected is $30,000-$40,000.

Hoefer will put together a proposed fee schedule for the next meeting.

Tender 10 Disposal
Hoefer stated the value of the vehicle will be $10,000-$15,000. There are two mutual aid departments that are interested in the vehicle. Based on prior direction from this group, Hoefer will work with each department to assess which department has the greatest need and effectuate the sale to that department.

Fleet Update
The wildland vehicle purchased from the DNR is now in service as Squad 6. The old Squad 6 is being decommissioned and will be disposed of per City policy. The Rescue truck has been in service since February. Squad 3 is also in the process of being decommissioned.

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

The next meeting will be June 1, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle R. Miller
Deputy City Clerk