

CITY OF BURTON
FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2000/4:00 P.M., POLICE/FIRE FACILITY

The Meeting was called to order by Bob Centilli, Finance Chairman, at 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brawner, Centilli and Tinnin.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Halstead, Fire Chief; D. Lacey, Assistant Fire Chief; Mayor Charles Smiley and C. Ladd,
Deputy City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) A.E.D.'S
(AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FROM
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS).

PRESENTATION:

Chief Halstead explained that the Burton Fire Auxiliary called and informed him that they had some funds in their bank account, but being a non-profit organization, they can't just keep accumulating and making money. They want to do something for the fire department with the money. They purchase and distribute kits for anyone who is burned out and they give the people checks. The auxiliary brings food and drinks to the firefighters while on the scene of a fire. They asked me what I would like to do with the money. The amount they have isn't enough to purchase a large ticket item like a set of jaws-of-life, but they wanted something of permanence and something that would be of value to the firefighters. After talking it over and we decided to purchase automated external defibrillators (A.E.D.'s). The Auxiliary said they could give us \$4500, but the defibrillators cost \$9,872.00. I went to the Red Cross and spoke with people I used to work with and they discounted them down to \$9,000. I told the auxiliary members that I would come to the City and ask for a transfer of funds to cover the other \$4500. The worksheet I have provided to you, gives a breakdown of the cost for the entire package. These units will be placed in the fire stations and will be strictly used for our firefighters. I am not purchasing them to make medical runs. They can be used by anyone in the public. I just came back from a Seminar in Windsor, Canada, where the casino purchased three A.E.D.'s three years ago. They have had 26 heart attacks in the casino in the past three years. The national average to fully recover from a heart attack is about 3%. Out of the 26 heart attacks, they successfully revived 23 of them and 21 of those revived resumed their normal life styles. Since that time, Windsor Ontario has 72 of these in the city. In Genesee County, the Red Cross has been pushing these to save lives. Kettering University, U of M and Baker College has them, as well as several of the GM facilities. When our firefighters go out on a scene, there is always a possibility of them having a heart attack. Chief Halstead said he would like these devices to protect his people. If you need further information, he would be willing to supply it to the committee.

Chief Halstead referred to House Bill 4420. He said previous to this, there was a Good Samaritan Law, which meant if someone tried to help a person in need and it didn't come to fruition the way you tried, your neighbor couldn't sue you. That law went by the wayside when the new EMT and Paramedic programs were started. Congress has reinstated the Good Samaritan Law.

Chief Halstead said these units are easy to use and the Red Cross will furnish the fire department with the initial training on it. In January of each year, our people will be retrained. A minimal amount of training is needed and the average person could use the units by simply reading the instructions. The Chief said at this time, he is asking for a transfer of \$4500, because this wasn't originally in the budget. I am also working on a grant from another resource to pay for the other half of this. If the grant comes through, the money will be turned in to Brad.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

No one in the audience wished to speak.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mr. Brawner asked if everyone in the fire department would be trained on the A.E.D.'s and if they would be placed on the trucks.

Chief Halstead replied yes, everyone will be trained and I plan to have them on the first truck out of the station. The most prevalent time we would use these is in a major structure fire when people are exerting themselves. When the firefighters are fully suited up, they are carrying about 110 lbs. more than normal. When going into a structure fire, the first 15 minutes is equivalent to a person actually physically working 8 hours. I would eventually like to see the city purchase these units for the other city buildings.

Mr. Centilli asked what the price would be if more units could be obtained.

Chief Halstead replied that he thinks he could get them for about the same price, about \$3,000 each.

A brief discussion was held concerning the purchase of other units for the city buildings.

Mr. Brawner inquired about the upkeep on the A.E.D. units.

Chief Halstead stated that the upkeep is minimal. There are two batteries and they are designed to set dormant for long periods of time without draining off. The only cost involved are the pads, which is a minimal cost. The Chief said all the Sheriff's cars are carrying them.

Mr. Brawner asked if the Chief is confident about getting the grant.

Chief Halstead said he isn't certain if he will get the grant or not. He spoke to the gentleman, but hasn't filed the paper work.

Mrs. Tinnin said she spoke with Mr. Becker today and asked how much money is in the budget for the equipment. He said there is a lot right now. He also tells me there are areas in your budget that could go over this year, and he is concerned about that. If you would like to purchase these that's fine, but it's my suggestion that you use the money in the budget right now, that you have for equipment. At the end of the fiscal year, if you need money for purposes such as salaries, fringes, etc. and the budget goes over, then that would be the time to transfer the money to be paying for that specific purpose. Mr. Becker to me it is quite unusual to ask for a transfer of this small amount.

Chief Halstead said the fire department is in the process of ordering equipment that Mr. Becker has not been billed for. I know what expenditures I have coming and this is a matter of expediency to get this done and be certain I have the money. I could have turned this in and probably have gotten it paid, but my concern is that I need \$23,000 for a set of jaws for Station #3; I also have two new rigs coming and I want to be certain all the equipment is on them that is necessary. That will all come in right at the end of the fiscal year. We also ordered five sets of fire fighting gear and each set is a little over \$1,000. We have an ongoing program to order five sets per year. Also, the pagers that we use for fires are melting down and turning to junk all at once. These are \$500 each and to equip 70 fire fighters with them

would be over \$35,000. I am trying to be frugal and careful. This is an expenditure that wasn't in the budget, but it is a safety item that came up and that is the reason I am asking for a transfer, rather than just taking the money out of the budget.

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Mrs. Tinnin asked Chief Halstead if he anticipates the purchase of radios or any other priority item that will have to be paid for at the end of the fiscal year and possibly come before Council requesting additional funds.

Chief Halstead said he thinks some pagers will have to be purchased. The Genesee County Consortium is talking about the possibility of changing the tones in our reads and the reads cost between \$180 and \$220 each. If they do that, it will be an emergency contingency situation, and will be an unfunded mandate. I have plenty of radios and they are in fairly good shape. I need about 6 pagers, which would amount to about \$3000.

Mrs. Tinnin said the Auxiliary could then pay for the pagers.

Chief Halstead said yes, if they chose to do that. However, they want to buy something that wasn't considered a budgeted item, as they have done in the past. They want to put money into something over and above what is covered under the budget. By doing this it would have their name on it and would also help to boost the membership. We are only one of two auxiliaries left in Genesee County.

Mrs. Tinnin asked if the jaws-of-life had been incorporated into the budget for Station 3 this year?

Chief Halstead said they were in the budget proposal last year, but after the proposal was done, it was said that, we may be able to get them, depending on how the money was balanced.

Mrs. Tinnin asked the Chief if he had ordered them for Station 3. She was advised no.

Chief Halstead said when he talked to Brad at the budget hearing, it was a matter of buying the jaws now or in July, when the truck gets here. It's a matter of pay now or pay later. I thought about buying them, but want to watch the money as closely as possible.

Mrs. Tinnin asked, so the equipment line was not to purchase the jaws?

Chief Halstead said not necessarily. We just ordered six pair of boots at \$80.00 per pair and gloves run about \$30.00. We do have these on-going costs.

Mrs. Tinnin referred to the life support letter in regards to the A.E.D.'s only being used under the supervision of a physician. She said she is apprehensive in putting them in an area for a few firefighters. The way I read it, it is better used for a large group, a hall, a sports event or casino. Are there any other fire departments using them at this time.

Chief Halstead said City of Flint has one on every fire truck.

Dennis Lacey said Mundy Township also has them.

Mr. Brawner said some of the police departments have them in the cars.

Chief Halstead said when referring to A.E.D.'s, it's important to remember that every medical device used in Genesee County, falls under the auspices of the Medical Control Director of this county. Anything that is considered to be medical or under a physicians license, he's the guy that is responsible. Under these circumstances, he has already signed off because the Red Cross uses them and sells them throughout the county. It doesn't mean you have to be trained as a physician or paramedic, because the average citizen can use one.

Mrs. Tinnin said the information given says that training and up-dated training is required.

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Chief Halstead replied that if you run ambulance and response for medical, you are required to have updated training.

If you hang them on the wall in this building, it would be advisable to train the people who work here, but they don't have to be. They can be hung on the wall and anyone can use it. The device is voice activated, so it talks to you and tells you what to do. It will not make a mistake by reading the wrong heart rhythm and shock someone who has a healthy heart. It will only shock one type of rhythm, and that's a fibrillating heart.

Dennis Lacey said he has been involved with A.E.D.'s for about six years. He was part of the first study group that used A.E.D.'s in Shiawassee County. I also volunteered with Byron Ambulance and we were the first in the State of Michigan to use them. All of our people will be trained on the A.E.D.'s and retrained yearly. At this point, they are only going to be used for our firefighters. The leading cause of death for firefighters, in the U.S., is heart attacks on the scene. We have a wide range of ages on our fire department. We go from the late 50's to the early 20's. The Red Cross will set the training in place. We are not going to use these to make medical runs. If, in the future, the City wants to look at putting A.E.D.'s in the city buildings, we will have to address your concerns regarding training at that point in time. Our concern right now is just our firefighters.

Mrs. Tinnin said she thinks it sounds good and has no objections to purchasing them, but it is still my opinion that they should come out of the budget and at the end of the year if you need money to cover other expenses, you can ask for the transfer then.

Mr. Brawner asked if this was Mr. Becker's recommendation.

Mrs. Tinnin said Mr. Becker told her that normally something this small doesn't come before the Council and could be purchased out of the current budget. If a transfer is needed, it could be done later.

Chief Halstead said it really doesn't matter to him, and if this is the way Mr. Becker thinks, that's okay. However, he doesn't want to be perceived as a bad budget manager by coming to the Council at the end of the year for a money transfer. He said he thinks that would put an undo pressure on the Council. He wants to be up front and say what he needs. The Chief said he has one of the lowest budgets of any city this size. He said with the graciousness of the Mayor and City Council he has been able to get trucks, but wants to be a good money manager.

Mrs. Tinnin said in the mean time, you may acquire money from a different source and it will buy you some time to get that answer back from whomever you approached on the grant.

Chief Halstead said the grant will not be given until after the purchase has been made.

Mr. Centilli said Chief Halstead made the statement that if he has \$4500 left at the end of the year, he would turn it back in.

Chief Halstead said unless the money is earmarked for capital improvement, it is turned back into the general fund.

Mrs. Tinnin said Mr. Becker doesn't anticipate you having extra money. He thinks that you will have some overruns in areas of your budget. You can purchase these right now, because you have the money available in your so-called line item for equipment. If you are low at the end of the fiscal year, you can come back and let us know that you need a transfer of funds. It looks like you are going to have some steep overruns and it will probably require a transfer.

Chief Halstead said that is perfectly fine and if that is the recommendation from the Finance, I don't mind at all. As long as I purchase them and the money is there, it doesn't matter whether we get it now or later.

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Mr. Brawner asked Mrs. Tinnin if she believes Chief Halstead will have to come back by the end of the fiscal year and ask for more money.?

Mrs. Tinnin said she doesn't know for sure, it depends on what he purchases between now and the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Brawner said he knows the fire department lives day by day, because if they have a major disaster, their budget will go over for one year.

Dennis Lacey said the payroll budget can be projected for one year, but if there are several incidences like the Clara Barton, the GTX, then it is gone. Some things cannot be projected. This is an extra item that we would like to see done, so that is why we took this route in getting the funds. We would rather not run out of money at the end of the year.

Chief Halstead said we have already had a large expenditure for salaries, for the month of March, for grass fires. It has been unusually dry and some of the fires have been substantial where we had to involve other departments.

Mr. Brawner stated it is also costly when you cover for another area because they are tied up. He said he has never seen the fire department give back much money. They are always under budgeted and I think you will have to come back to us and ask for this money. I think it should be taken care of now so you don't have to ask for a transfer.

Mrs. Tinnin asked if Fire Station #3 has the jaw for life now.

Chief Halstead said they have a set that is quite heavy and cumbersome and not of the quality of the ones we have in the other two stations. They are 18 years old and the new jaws are much stronger and have cutters on them that will cut through the newer vehicles. We think we need a new set as an essential piece of equipment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Brawner moved and Centilli seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the transfer of \$4,500.00 from General Fund, for the purchase of three (3) A.E.D.'s (Automated External Defibrillators from the American Red Cross). Matching funds have been donated from the City of Burton Fire Auxiliary.

Motion carried 2-1, with Mrs. Tinnin voting no.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML