

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HEALTH, WELFARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 22, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Richard Bonenfant, Chair; David Jaeger, Clyde Mount,  
Joanne Romano, Travis Simms; Nicholas Kydes (6:43 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Ellen Wink, City Clerk

**OTHERS:** Fire Chief Denis McCarthy; Assistant Chief Reilly, Chief McCabe;  
Master Mechanic Plank.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bonenfant called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Mr. Bonenfant introduced all the members of the Committee to those present. He explained that this was a Special Meeting and no other items could be added to the agenda.

Mr. Bonenfant explained that there was only one item on the agenda and that the original resolution on the agenda had indicated that the Mayor was to authorize the purchase order, but this was incorrect. The resolution was corrected to indicated that it would be the Purchasing Agent.

**REVIEW BIDS AND REFER THE FOLLOWING TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR ACTION:**

**Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute a purchase order with KME Fire Apparatus, One Industrial Complex, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, to build a tractor drawn aerial ladder fire truck for the Norwalk Fire Department for a price not to exceed \$854,737.00.m Account no. 91031105777.**

**\*\* MS. ROMANO MOVED THE ITEM.**

Chief McCarthy explained that it was important to order this truck before January 1st because of potential change of technology and a potential price increase. The vehicle that is being ordered will have a traditional motor. He then reviewed the bid summary with the Committee and the reasons why KME was chosen for the project. Although the

vendor was not the lowest bidder, their bid met most of the requirements including height, ladder storage, compartment locations, tillerman view as requested by the Norwalk Fire Department.

Mr. Mount asked if this would be the total cost. Master Mechanic Plank explained that the truck would be 100% complete, but there would be additional equipment that the Fire Department would be installing on their own. KME does not supply the firefighting equipment, just the trucks. Chief McCarthy said that the staff was careful to review the details so that the trucks would fit under the Washington Street bridge.

*Mr. Kydes joined the meeting at 6:43 p.m.*

Master Mechanic Plank explained that everyone was extremely careful about the height of the vehicle and at only 10'10", the vehicle can be used on the Parkway. There will be extraction equipment on it, which will be a important aspect. Master Mechanic Plank said that the tractor drawn aerial ladder fire trucks had gone out of popularity, but were coming back because of building set backs and other safety aspects.

Officer McCabe said that the ladder trucks were important for venting buildings, and for getting to the upper floors. The longer carriage allows for more tools to be carried to structure fires. The buildings are set back further from the road and the maneuverability of the truck is greater.

Mr. Kydes asked about the value of the truck that was being retired. Assistant Chief Reilly said that there are always two ladder trucks on call. The oldest truck may be sold, but older aerials are not very marketable.

Chief McCarthy said that he had put this in the Capital budget a few years ago. Ms. Romano asked if this was the vehicle that had been discussed a few years ago. Chief McCarthy said that the Department had replaced a pumper and rescue vehicle.

Mr. Bonenfant asked about the reliability of the KME company. Master Mechanic Plank said that while Norwalk did not have a KME vehicle, other surrounding towns did. They are a reliable company. Chief McCarthy reminded everyone that the Department was not obligated to take the lowest price, but the lowest responsible bid.

Ms. Romano asked what the turn around time for the vehicle would be. Chief McCarthy said that it would be one year.

Mr. Bonenfant asked where the truck would be parked. Chief McCarthy said that it would fit at Westport Avenue, at Central and also a third location. No other vehicles will be displaced.

Mr. Bonenfant asked about training. Master Mechanic Plank explained that part of the bid included training since there are two drivers involved.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER WITH KME FIRE APPARATUS, ONE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, NESQUEHONING, PA 18240, TO BUILD A TRACTOR DRAWN AERIAL LADDER FIRE TRUCK FOR THE NORWALK FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$854,737.00. ACCOUNT NO. 91031105777 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

Chief McCarthy gave a brief update on the replacement of Volk Fire Station (Central). He said that the longer the time span, the more expensive the real estate cost will be. Phase one is to purchase property on Connecticut Avenue. Phase Two would be the demolition of the buildings on the property. Phase Three will be the construction. Currently, the cost is estimated at about 15 million. If the City moves forward now, it will cost less now than in three years. With the changes in the economy, it would be cheaper to do now than it would have been in 2007. With the cuts in State aid, the project could be delayed, which would add to the cost.

Mr. Bonenfant said that the Police Department had requested to add an item to the agenda, but this could not be done because this was a special meeting. The information about the item was included in the information packet. Ms. Wink said that it was just the verbage for a hold harmless clause regarding a house that the police use for training. This item will be forwarded to the full Council for their approval.

Mr. Bonenfant suggested a tour of the Fire Department and the Police Department. He reminded everyone that there are number of minutes to approve in January and also the meeting schedule will need to be filed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

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