

Fire Rescue Task Force

September 18, 2014

7:30 p.m.

City Manager Conference Room

City of Whitewater Municipal Building

312 W Whitewater Street, Whitewater, Wisconsin

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to order and roll call.** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Ken Kidd. Present: Don Gregoire, Todd Lindert, Jan Bilgen, Ken Kidd, Phil Frawley, Cameron Clapper. Absent : None.
 2. **Discussion of Whitewater Volunteer Fire Department vote concerning the proposed organizational structure for the Fire Department which includes the composition of the governing board, the duties and responsibilities of the governing board, the duties and responsibilities of the Fire Chief, the duties and responsibilities of Department officers (Fire & Rescue) and the duties and responsibilities of the city toward the Department.** Task Force Members expressed frustration regarding the recent Fire Department vote to reject the proposed organizational structure as presented by the Task Force. Chief Gregoire explained some of the reasoning behind the vote and stated that the Fire Department would work with their hired attorney and bring back a proposal for the organizational structure of the Department. Chief Gregoire clarified that the Department was still moving forward with a vision of one department that included all fire, EMS, and Technical Rescue volunteers. The future proposal would include the following components, among others:
 - a. A board independent of the City, but to include the involvement of a Common Council member at some level.
 - b. A “grandfather-like” provision that would allow for a reasonable duration of time in which members could obtain any newly required trainings and/or certifications
 - c. An organizational structure that would hold fire, technical rescue, and EMS as laterally equivalent divisions within the hierarchy of the organizational structure.
- Chief Gregoire also reaffirmed the intent of the Fire Department to develop one set of bylaws and requirements for all members.
- A motion was made by Jan Bilgen, seconded by Todd Lindert to formally request that before any agreement or proposal is brought for review, that EMS officers be brought in on the discussion and involved in the proposal development process. Ayes: Bilgen, Lindert, Frawley, Kidd, Clapper, Gregoire. Noes: None.
3. **Next steps for the Fire Rescue Task Force.** The Task Force will meet again on October 16 to review a proposal from the Fire Department.
 4. **Future meeting dates.** The next meeting of the task force will be October 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 5. **Adjourn.** It was moved by Lindert, seconded by Frawley to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30pm.