

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Excelsior Fire District (EFD) Boardmembers: Chair Erickson; Boardmembers Fletcher, Jennings, Miller and Sundberg; and EFD Chief Gerber

Also present: Deephaven Administrator/EFD Fiscal Agent Young; Excelsior City Manager Luger; Shorewood Administrator Lerud; Tonka Bay Administrator Crawford; EFD Assistant Chief George and Radio/Pagers Coordinator Hoo

Absent: None

**2. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED EXCELSIOR FIRE DISTRICT 2018 OPERATING BUDGET AND 2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Chief Gerber explained Excelsior Fire District (EFD) personnel started talking about the 2018 Operating Budget (the Budget) during December 2016. The Budget was then presented to the EFD Operating Committee and based on feedback received it was refined. He emailed the EFD Board a budget packet on April 14. It included a copy of the Budget, the 2018 – 2038 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and the 2018 – 2038 Building Projects Improvement Program (the BPIP). There will be a joint work session of the EFD member City Councils on June 28.

He highlighted his major budget footnotes.

➤ **Staffing**

- The full-time staffing will remain as is – the Fire Chief, the Fire Marshall and the Administrative Specialist. The cost for the Administrative Specialist services will be shared equally with the City of Chanhassen. A seasonal part-time Fire Inspector will again be he hired to focus on special event inspections.
- The intent is to retain and recruit to staff up to a maximum of 50 firefighters. During his tenure the Department has had as many as 48 firefighters but the number has most often been around 43.
- The goal is to maintain the Duty Officer program. The Chiefs and Captains and some senior firefighters provide that coverage 24 hours a day. In 2006 they were not paid anything for providing that coverage. A wage was put in place and that has been increased a little at a time. In 2017 they are paid \$50 a day. He proposed increasing that to \$75 a day for 2018. The payment is in part for the requirement to stay close and respond.
- The 2017 Budget includes funding for 10 hours per week of Duty Crew pay. He proposed increasing that to 18 hours per week. The first draft of the budget proposed increasing the hours to 24 but the Operating Committee thought it was too great of a monetary increase in one year.

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- He had met with each of the Chiefs to discuss staffing. All of them agreed that number of Duty Crew hours needed to be increased.
- Other main Budget impacts
    - The Worker's Compensation line item was increased to \$28,000 (from \$26,500) to reflect the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) cost increases. The EFD's experience modification factor is extremely low (0.76). The work comp rates for fire departments are based on population and then the factors.
    - The Professional Services Audit line item was increased to \$15,025 (from \$12,500) in order to cover all of the audit costs.
    - Eight portable radios that have reached their end of life will be replaced. The radios are leased from Hennepin County. The line item was increased to \$34,260 (from \$28,500). That \$5,760 payment will be made each of the next 7 years. There are another 8 radios that will have to be replaced in 2019. That results in more than \$11,000 being added to the budget over the next 7 or 8 years.
    - The line item for purchasing 5 sets of turnout gear will be restored to \$9,000 (the 2016 budget amount).
    - The computer replacement plan of 2 per year for a cost of \$2,145 will be maintained.
    - The line item for sending the same number of firefighters to attend the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) will be restored to the 2015 level for a cost of \$3,000.
    - The purchase of one 4 Gas monitor for a cost of \$850 will be restored.
    - The purchase of one cold water rescue suit for a cost of \$700 will be restored.
  - The EFD will continue to be tax exempt in 2018. That went into effect January 1, 2017. Staff needs at least one full year to more accurately determine the impact on various line items.
  - The 2018 BPIP includes \$21,908 in building maintenance projects. The \$21,000 budgeted in the 2016 Budget for concrete repair work was not spent and therefore it increased the amount in the undesignated Operating Fund reserves. The BPIP does not get updated with actual amount spent.
  - The 2018 CIP does not reflect any change in the transfer into the Capital Equipment Fund; it remained at \$170,000. The replacement Aerial 11 arrives at the EFD in 2018 so the first payment will be made in 2018. The timetable for replacing Rescue 12 and Rescue 21 and Utility was moved up in the CIP.

In response to a question from Boardmember Sundberg, Chief Gerber stated the length of a Duty Officer's shift can vary. Each month the eight chiefs and captains get together to bid the next month's schedule with somewhat of a seniority rotation. There is give and take during the bidding process in part because of work schedules. Sundberg then asked if the Duty Officer is paid the same daily pay rate whether or not they work a 24-hour shift or a partial shift. Gerber clarified if the shift is split the daily pay is split. He noted that payroll is done on a monthly basis.

In response to a question from Boardmember Fletcher, Chief Gerber explained there is one primary Duty Officer vehicle that is used the majority of the time. Two of the command vehicles may be used as a Duty Officer vehicle.

Boardmember Jennings questioned if the proposed increase in the weekly number of Duty Crew hours to 18 is part of the justification for the increase in the daily Duty Officer pay. Chief Gerber clarified that the Duty Officer program and the Duty Crew program are two separate things. The Duty Crew firefighters are at the stations and a Duty Officer may, for example, be at home or at work. Chair Erickson stated the Duty Officer role is a command role. That position is filled 24 hours a day.

Boardmember Fletcher stated he thought the \$75 daily rate for a Duty Officer is a good benefit.

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Chief Gerber stated the increase in the Duty Officer daily rate to \$75 from \$50 is a big percentage increase. He clarified there are times when the shifts are not covered and noted a concerted effort is made to try and cover all shifts. He explained that for some calls (e.g.; carbon monoxide) only the Duty Officer is paged.

Boardmember Miller asked how many total people can fill the Duty Officer position. Chief Gerber explained there are a total of 8 chiefs and captains including him. When there was a training captain there were 9. Those that cannot due a 24-hour shift because of other job commitments will try to pick up other shifts on the weekends. In general those people have 3 – 4 shifts a month. It is harder to staff summer shifts. He noted there are a couple of senior firefighters who had been officers in the past who are willing to fill some openings.

Boardmember Fletcher stated for someone who has a full-time job covering Duty Officer shifts basically requires doing so on some weekends. Assistant Chief George stated some officers will take a 12-hour shift on a weekend.

Chief Gerber noted the Department has good people who have been willing to fill the Duty Officer role. He stated there has been discussion about what happens if the Department cannot have a functional Duty Officer program. Staff has some ideas about how that could be addressed. Department personnel have indicated they would like the program to continue.

Boardmember Fletcher stated the daily Duty Officer rate increase is a significant percentage increase but it is small when compared to the total budget. Chair Erickson agreed that the impact on the operational budget is small and he thought some of that increase could be offset in other areas.

In response to a comment from Boardmember Fletcher, Chief Gerber explained the Duty Crew firefighters are not sent into a structure fire by themselves. But, they can start to set things up at the scene.

In response to a question from Boardmember Sundberg, Chief Gerber explained that since the Duty Crew program was implemented in 2015 there have been a number of shifts that were cancelled because there were no firefighters who wanted to fill those shifts. In response to another question, Gerber explained when Duty Crews are at a station and active trucks go in service and get to the scene faster. He noted there has not been a structure fire when a Duty Crew has been on. There have, for example, been medical responses, fire alarms, and a crash on a roadway when a Duty Crew was on duty. Sundberg noted that she was very supportive of the program.

Chief Gerber stated having a two-firefighter Duty Crew at each station cannot provide all of the services the Department as a whole provides. Duty Crews do provide predictability and consistency.

Boardmember Miller asked if it is more difficult to staff a Duty Officer position or a Duty Crew. Chief Gerber responded a Duty Crew and noted that staffing the Crew has been voluntary to date. He also noted that to date the chiefs and captains have been willing to fill the Duty Officer position. In response to another question, Chief Gerber explained in 2017 a Crew member is paid \$9.00 when there is not a call and if there is a call during their shift they get regular call pay. He proposed going to regular call pay in the 2018 Budget. In 2018 the call pay would be \$12.75 per hour; the rate is \$12.48 in 2017. Miller stated he thought life style was driving the staffing issue for Duty Crews. Gerber confirmed that was part of the cause. Miller stated if the Duty Crew model is a good model going forward he asked if it will be necessary to increase the hourly rate for those on those shifts. Gerber stated he thought that would be required and benefits may be required.

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Chief Gerber stated the paid-on-call (POC) model has been a cost effective model for the District to date and as long as it continues to be effective that is what the District should do. Going to an all career model would be very expensive. He noted that if a person works more than 30 hours per week an employer has to offer them health insurance. He stated it is likely the District will have to transition to more of a Duty Crew model and that will require making changes to the training program. He then stated that since the Duty Crew program was implemented in 2015 those firefighters who staff those shifts have enhanced their skills. If firefighters are required to participate in the program there will be organizational changes over time.

Boardmember Fletcher stated if the firefighter call pay was increased to \$15.00 per hour he asked if that would help retain the POC model.

Chief Gerber explained that one of the challenges with the Duty Crew model going forward is firefighters want predictability. Also firefighters do not want to work the less desirable shifts (e.g.; on holidays).

Boardmember Fletcher stated there are fire departments who hire firefighters from other organizations to help fill Duty Crew shifts. Chief Gerber stated the Department has discussed that, but he does not think the Department is at that stage yet. Gerber then stated if the Department moves toward more of a Duty Crew model all firefighters will be required to staff some of the shifts. Once that happens the Department may start using non-Department firefighters to fill some of the shifts.

Chief Gerber noted that many fire departments in the metro area that use firefighters from other departments to fill shifts. He stated that he wants to use the EFD's firefighters first because of things like training and expectations. Boardmember Fletcher expressed a preference for using other firefighters before forcing EFD firefighters to fill Duty Crew shifts.

Chair Erickson asked how many radios the District has and if 8 of them are replaced at a time. Chief Gerber explained there are 16 left to be replaced; they have reached the end of their useful life. Both Hennepin County and Motorola have indicated they cannot be repaired any more. He stated he was not sure how many radios the Department has; he thought it was about 50. Erickson asked what the life of the radios is. Gerber stated for the original radios it was 10 years; they lasted longer than that. The radios being replaced now were acquired in 2004. Erickson asked if there will be a time when there is no need to budget for radios. Gerber noted at some point the manufacturer will stop repairing them and the District has no control over that. He explained the ones that were replaced earlier were already paid off. Staff had been told they had already reached their end of life.

Boardmember Fletcher expressed confidence that the new radios would not be of the same quality as those purchased 13 years go. The new ones may have to be replaced quicker than the old ones did.

In response to a question from Chair Erickson, Chief Gerber explained the annual \$18 total for life insurance for the Chief, Fire Marshall and Administrative Specialist is correct.

Chief Gerber explained the Operating Budget includes about \$28,000 for normal building repairs. The BPIP document was created in 2015 for the 2016 budget process; it was created because the EFD Board wanted those projects taken out of the CIP. The 2018 BPIP shows that for Station 1 some carpet (\$8,500), some appliances (\$5,000) and three pieces of fitness equipment (the elliptical, the treadmill and stationary bike; the cost would be \$3,500 for the EFD's share) would be replaced and that for Station 2 some carpet (\$3,000) and three pieces (of fitness equipment (\$1,500) would be replaced. The replacement costs total \$21,908. He clarified that the carpet would not actually be replaced until year five for high traffic areas. But, money would be set aside to do that for four years. There has been discussion about where the money should be set aside before it is actually used.

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Boardmember Jennings asked if the carpet would be replaced with carpet tiles. Chief Gerber clarified there are no carpet tiles today. Jennings stated there might be a small upfront cost to doing that but it does extend the life of the carpet. Chair Erickson noted carpet tiles are being used in more and more commercial buildings. He agreed there is a slightly higher front end cost for tiles.

Chair Erickson stated last year the EFD Board discussed accruing for building repairs somewhere other than in the Operating Fund reserves. He explained when the \$21,000 was not spent on concrete repairs in 2016 it went into the reserves and not into an isolated fund. He asked the Board if it wanted to move the \$21,000 into some capital fund, or tag it on to the CIP so there would only be one capital fund, or let it accrue into the reserves. Boardmember Jennings asked what the benefit of doing that would be. Erickson stated having it separate would just isolate the funds. He explained that if the unspent funds accrue in the undesignated Operating Fund reserves there could be a desire to return the funds for building improvements to the member cities. Letting the funds accrue in a capital fund does not preclude the member cities from asking that it be returned to the cities.

Boardmember Miller stated his preference would be to tag the unused funds somehow. If the reserve balance goes above the 20 – 30 percent stipulated in the Operating Fund Balance Policy it would be too easy to use the unused funds for other purposes or to return them to the cities.

Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated the Board could assign those funds annually and that would essentially make the funds restricted for building purposes. The unused building funds could also be transferred to another capital fund annually. If the funds are accrued in the Operating Fund reserves that would make the level of reserves look misleading.

Chief Gerber explained that the 2016 Audit report indicated the unallocated Operating Fund balance was 31.8 percent. That includes the unused \$21,000 for the concrete repairs. When the repairs are made it is likely they will cost more than \$21,000.

Boardmember Miller asked what percent of the 31.8 percent the \$21,000 is. Chief Gerber stated taking \$21,000 out of the reserves would drop the level to below 31 percent.

Boardmember Jennings stated the reserve percentage is of limited value if there are funds in there slated for specific purposes. He stated it makes sense to him to put those slated funds in a separate fund.

Chair Erickson stated everyone knows the concrete project is going to cost more than \$21,000 and maybe closer to \$50,000. Then here is another \$50,000 for carpet replacement accruals over five years. That amounts to about \$100,000 that is earmarked for building related projects. The level of reserves is going to continue to increase before it is time to spend the money on repairs. Three years from now the District would still be accruing for carpet.

Boardmember Jennings asked if it would be possible to take funds in the capital account and put them in something that would earn higher returns.

Chair Erickson stated from a Deephaven perspective Deephaven has no desire to house a lot of money with the District. Deephaven would prefer to house that money itself and special needs as they come up. He thought there is an advantage to accruing reasonable amounts of money with the District for specific earmarked projects. He explained there was a discussion about a year ago related to accruing and front-end loading for trucks. As a Deephaven representative his answer is no. Yet, he does support accruing for other known projects within the District. Boardmember Miller stated that is currently done with the Capital Fund.

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Erickson stated the District is not accruing a \$1 million for the purchase of a truck. He explained the balance coming into the Capital Fund is about \$200,000. By the time 2022 comes around there will be \$412 left in the fund. He stated he thought there was an advantage to the member cities knowing that each year there is a significant transfer (currently \$170,000) into the Capital Fund. But, the District is not accruing \$1 million to purchase two trucks. Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated if the member cities want to be able to purchase a truck outright the transfer into the Capital Fund would have to be doubled and that would be a difficult sell to the member cities.

Boardmember Jennings again asked if there is an opportunity to earn higher returns on the existing funds. Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young responded no and explained the District is limited in what type of investments it can make. For example, it cannot invest in the State Board of Investments. Boardmember Miller stated that is similar for cities.

Boardmember Fletcher stated that historically Deephaven has been the City that has opposed accruing funds on the District's side. If Chair Erickson is comfortable with accruing for some EFD projects then he thought other cities would support that. Erickson clarified Deephaven does not like accruing funds within the District for things; that is its base philosophy. But, that is being done and it is called the reserves. The unspent \$21,000 from 2016 ended up in the reserves. The Board almost forgets it is in the reserves. He asked the Board if it could support isolating those funds for accountability and tracking purposes rather than just letting the funds stay in the reserves.

Boardmember Fletcher stated if Deephaven would support that he could also.

Boardmember Miller stated Excelsior likes to set aside a reasonable amount. Excelsior is not saving up that money. It is operating hand to mouth. He noted that he could support the most effective way to delineate the funds from an accounting perspective.

Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated it was absolutely more efficient to transfer those unused building project funds into a separate fund for use down the road.

Chief Gerber stated the City Administrators/Manager thought those unused building project funds could be transferred into the Fire Facilities Fund.

Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated the EFD has funds that are somewhat inactive where the funds could be transferred into and designated for specific BPIP projects.

Chair Erickson stated the Board could designate a fund for BPIP projects and authorize a transfer \$30,000 into it from the Operating Fund reserves and then on an annual basis transfer another \$20,000 – \$25,000 into it. That would be similar to what is done with the Capital Fund. He clarified that he was just putting numbers out there.

Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated there is \$25,000 in reserves that was earmarked for the Building Fund a few years ago. That ended up in Capital Fund. That could be transferred to the new fund.

Boardmember Fletcher stated he would like to call the fund a Building Fund.

Chief Gerber stated a number of years ago there was no plan for the facilities. There has since been a commitment to take care of the facilities long term. All of the items in the BPIP need to be maintained. When the buildings were built in 2003 and 2004 there were designed to be functional for 50 years. He found it reassuring to be having this conversation.

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Boardmember Miller stated it was his recollection that previously there was a list of items identified, such as roof repairs and air conditioning, that needed to be replaced sometime. He asked if that needs to be addressed soon. He asked if those items are in the BPIP. Chief Gerber stated sometime the roof will have to be replaced. Miller asked if the \$10,000 roof repairs line item in 2034 – 2038 is for the replacement. Gerber confirmed that.

There was EFD Board consensus to designate a fund for BPIP projects and to transfer some amount into the new fund from the Operating Fund reserves and then on an annual basis transfer another \$20,000 – \$25,000 into it.

Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated the approval of that will come back in the form of a resolution.

Boardmember Miller asked if the new fund would be a capital fund.

Boardmember Fletcher stated funds could be taken out of the new fund for other purposes.

Chair Erickson clarified the intent is not to restrict the funds it is to isolate them.

Chief Gerber stated when the BPIP was created an effort was made to keep the annual expenses to around \$25,000.

Boardmember Fletcher stated the benefit of maintaining building related items on a regular basis is in the end the cost will not be as great. He clarified that he does not support doing that just because they are on a schedule. Chair Erickson concurred with that.

Chair Erickson stated televisions are inexpensive enough today that they can be replaced when they break and paid for out of the Operating Budget. Chair Erickson stated he does not want to replace a roof because it is on a schedule but he also does not want it to be in such a state of disrepair that it would leak during a storm and cause water damage.

Based on a comment Chair Erickson made about radios, Chief Gerber explained the EFD could purchase radios out right and not through Hennepin County. Doing so would cost more on a onetime payment cost. But, it is interest free to lease them through the County and that makes it a good financial decision. He noted the EFD pays a monthly fee to the County cover that covers a variety of things.

Chair Erickson asked Chief Gerber when there will be a better idea of what the concrete repairs will cost. He asked if it will be possible to update the BPIP with more accurate numbers yet this year. Chief Gerber stated he hoped so.

Chief Gerber provided some history about the CIP for the Benefit of Boardmember Jennings, a new member of the Board. He explained when he joined the EFD there was no CIP. The CIP has been in place during his entire tenure. The CIP has been refined over the years. The equipment section includes replacement of things such air packs, extrication tools, defibrillators and training equipment; things that cost \$5,000 or more. The revenue section includes revenue from the sale of used equipment. Over the last few years a concerted effort has been made to keep the Cities' contribution to the Capital Fund stable. The contribution has been at \$170,000 since 2014. It is projected to increase to \$175,000 for 2022 – 2024. It will increase to \$225,000 in 2024 and remain at that level for six years.

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There are no specific larger purchases slated for 2018. That is the first year to pay on the new Aerial 11 truck. The replacement of Rescue 12, Rescue 21 and Utility 11 has been advanced in the schedule; they had been pushed out further than they should have been. Rescue 12 and 21 are some of the most used trucks. The trucks will never have the most miles. Their replacement is about hours of use.

Chair Erickson noted that he and Chief Gerber spent time the previous week strategizing about the CIP and what might be done with equipment. Nothing would impact what is being done in the next 5 years.

Chief Gerber explained there is municipal water throughout Excelsior and Tonka Bay. Shorewood has municipal water throughout about half of the City. Greenwood has about 10 – 15 percent on municipal water. In Deephaven there is about 10 percent on municipal water. Deephaven has no plans to install municipal water in the foreseeable future. Any time the Department needs to respond to a fire call in an area without municipal water it will have to truck water there. It is important for the District to maintain a tanker type operation.

Chair Erickson noted that Deephaven cannot afford the cost to install municipal water throughout. A 2000 study estimated that the cost to do that was \$16 million.

Boardmember Miller noted that in 2024 the cities' contribution to the CIP increases to \$225,000; an increase of \$50,000. In 2022 the balance goes down to \$412. He asked if the cities should be increasing their contribution more frequently to slowly ramp up to the \$225,000 instead of having a \$50,000 increase in one year.

Fiscal Agent/Administrator Young stated the bonded debt for the buildings will mostly be paid off in 2023 with the remainder being paid off in 2024. The expense for the bonded debt will drop by about \$550,000 when the debt is paid off.

Chief Gerber stated there has been discussion about what the balance should be in the Capital Fund. Since he has been with District generally money has been set aside for the smaller trucks and the larger trucks are acquired under a lease/purchase arrangement. The District has been fortunate to have had Shorewood be the lending institution for many of the purchases. He then stated as long as the District continues with what it is currently doing the District is in good shape. But, if a decision is made to change what the District is doing then there is going to be a problem because then the District will not have the money needed. When the Department was the Excelsior Fire Department there was never enough money to purchase trucks.

Radio/Pagers Coordinator Hoo stated it took 30 years to get to where the Department/District is today.

Chair Erickson stated the advantage for the District is the money that flows into the District is for fire. It cannot be used to, for example, build a road which often happens when a fire department is under a city's jurisdiction.

Boardmember Miller stated he did not think it was an issue for the balance to go down to \$412 because the capital needs are predictable.

Boardmember Fletcher stated the level of reserves is also reasonable. The transfer to the Capital Fund could be increased but there may be pushback on doing that because the cities are already being financially squeezed by increases in operating costs. Reserves can always be used if need be.

Boardmember Jennings asked if a growth rate is factored into the CIP. Chair Erickson stated all of the equipment costs have a 5 percent inflation factor built in.

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Chair Erickson stated from Deephaven's perspective it does not want to build too much of a balance with the District. He then stated there is enough flexibility in the CIP regarding when things are purchased to be able to push something out one year to ensure the Capital Fund does not go into a deficit state. He then stated the \$412 balance does not mean that is all the available money the District has.

Boardmember Miller stated \$412 is a very low fund balance. He then stated if any of the variables used to calculate the CIP are wrong that will cause the Capital Fund to go into a deficit state in that year.

Chief Gerber acknowledged that Boardmember Miller's point was valid. He stated if in 2024 the contribution were only increased to \$200,000 some of the future balances would go into a deficit state.

In response to a comment from Chair Erickson, Chief Gerber explained the air packs used to be replaced every 15 years. In 2011 a decision was made to replace them every 10 years. NFPA, the organization that helps guide standards and changes to breathing apparatus, does that about every 7 years. Some organizations in the area replace them every 7 or 8 years.

Boardmember Jennings stated Senator Klobuchar has come out recently about the health of firefighters and the possible need to track that. There could come a day when the District needs to track that information.

Chief Gerber explained that Senator Klobuchar has spoken about better awareness about cancer. It has been known for a number of years that about 100 firefighters a year are killed nationally. That is done because of line of duty deaths, something that happens at an incident, and a cardiac event that happens during or after an incident. People are recently learning about the types of cancer firefighters are succumbing to. Things are burning hotter and faster. And there are more things with petroleum in them that are burning in a home. Today's studies are much better.

A system has been developed in Minnesota called MN Fire that is putting awareness toward three things – cardiac awareness, cancer awareness and mental health awareness. People are also learning more and more about the mental health struggles that firefighters go through. People are also learning that the environments fire firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel work in make their job more dangerous. He thought there will be more administrative work to track those things but he thought there would be value in doing that.

He explained the Department is getting better about getting firefighters to wash their gear after a fire incident. By the Tuesday following the last live burn training a lot of the gear had been washed. He noted he asked the quartermaster to purchase a second hood for every firefighter. A hood cost about \$30. Stuff gets into firefighter's pores from their hood. The newer hoods the District will purchase in the future will cost about \$100.

Gerber noted that after the last live burn training the firefighters were encouraged to take a shower.

Boardmember Jennings stated with the increased awareness he thought it likely there would be a need for more administrative infrastructure. Chief Gerber stated he did not think there would be any additional cost today. If a new database is rolled out he thought that would not have to be paid for by the District initially; that may happen down the road.

Boardmember Miller noted that the proposed 2018 total budget reflects an increase of 3.9 percent when compared to 2017. Chief Gerber clarified the actual increase for each member city will vary based on the funding formula.

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Miller asked how the increased cost for the concrete repairs will impact the 2017 budget. Chief Gerber stated that maybe the extra cost could be paid for out of the Operating Fund balance. Gerber explained the Risk Management Fund has about \$31,000 in it and he and the City Administrators/Manager have spoken about taking maybe \$20,000 out of it.

Chief Gerber stated he understood the Board to agree that the overall concrete issue needs to be fixed. That involves pouring more than new concrete.

Boardmember Miller stated if the concrete repairs are not done in 2017 he asked if that would be okay. Chief Gerber stated he does not think those repairs would be made in 2017. He noted that the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department (SLMPD) doesn't have funding to pay for its half of the cost. Miller asked why the SLMPD does not have the capital to make the repairs.

Chief Gerber thanked the EFD Board and Operating Committee for working with him so cooperatively on this.

Gerber noted the next time the Board will discuss the proposed budget is during its May 24, regular meeting. If the Boardmembers or Operating Committee Members have questions he asked that they forward them to him before then. He noted there is a budget work session with the EFD Board and member City Councils scheduled for June 28. The plan is to hopefully finalize the Budget during the July 26 EFD regular Board meeting.

**3. NEXT MEETING**

**A. Board Meeting May 24, 2017, 6:00 P.M. Station 1**

**The next EFD Board meeting is scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on May 24, 2017, at Station 1.**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**The EFD Governing Board Work Session of April 18, 2017, was adjourned at 9:10 P.M. P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
Christine Freeman, Recorder**