

**VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
7:00 p.m. –Village Fire Department**

**Minutes**

Notice is hereby given of a Budget Workshop of the Fire Commission of the Village Fire Department to be held on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** or upon completion of the special meeting at the Village Fire Department, 901 Corbindale Rd. Hedwig Village, Texas 77024. The meeting will be open to the public and a quorum of the board of commissioners will be physically present at the above location.

**WORKSHOP:**

1. Call to order

**Present & Voting Were:**

**City of Hedwig Village  
City of Bunker Hill Village  
City of Spring Valley Village  
City of Piney Point Village  
City of Hunters Creek  
City of Hilshire Village**

**Commissioner Matt Woodruff, Chair  
Commissioner Keith Brown, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Allen Carpenter, Secretary  
Commissioner Henry Kollenberg, Treasurer  
Commissioner Rob Adams, Member  
Commissioner Robert (Bob) Buesinger, Member**

**Present Were:**

**City of Hedwig Village  
City of Hilshire Village  
City of Piney Point Village  
City of Spring Valley Village  
Village Fire Department**

**Alternate Mayor Tom Jinks  
Alternate Mike Garofalo  
Alternate Aliza Dutt  
Alternate John Lisenby  
Fire Chief, Howard Miller  
Administrative Staff, Marlo Longoria & Katherine Stuart  
Attorney Brandon Morris**

**Randle Law Firm**

**Not Present Were:**

**City of Hunters Creek  
City of Bunker Hill**

**Alternate Fidel Sapien  
Alternate Clara Towsley**

2. Comments from the Public (Comments are limited to 3 minutes each)  
  
None
3. A workshop will be held to discuss the following items that may be considered at the Commission's next regular meeting or at any future meetings. The following item is for discussion purposes only and no formal action will be taken.
  - a. 2025 Budget – Draft 2

Commissioner Woodruff stated he wanted to give staff some level setting in terms of what our expectations are for the budget. On behalf of Hedwig, the “decision package FY 2025 Budget with all the options is a 9.6% increase from the 2024 approved budget. There was an increase in 2023 to 2024; of 14%, and in 2022 to 2023; of 13%, and the taxpayers in Hedwig Village would not like to see a 10% increase in the fire department’s budget on top of 13% and 14% received in the last years. He stated the city was told 2023 was to fix the budget, 2024 was to right the budget and 2025 should be similar to 2024 because the commission solved the problems.

Commissioners continued to discuss some budget topics.

Major topics discussed:

- Budget Changes
  - o decrease/increases from year-to-year
  - o Budget impact on the needs of the department year-to-year
  - o OT calculations
- Staffing the apparatus
  - o Personnel Qualifications (hiring a Firemedic vs. hiring a firefighter)
- Salary/Benefits
  - o Causes of Decrease/Increase in personnel cost (Hiring FTEs, competitive department, inflation)
  - o Whole package – competitive pay, tools, equipment, environment, etc.
  - o Salary Survey (last one completed in 2023)
- Apparatus
  - o ISO rating (will rating change if the equipment life is extended)
- Capital Replacement Plan (Budget Workshop- Capital Replacement Plan)
  - o Funding
  - o Vehicle Inflation
  - o NFPA Standard on vehicle replacement
  - o Extension on vehicle replacement

Commissioners Woodruff and a combination of the remaining commissioners requested the Fire Chief to review and reduce the overall 2025 budget to a 3.5 % increase over the approved 2024 budget.

Only discussion occurred and No action was taken.

#### 4. Adjournment

Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Buesinger.

Zoom Audio Link -

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/dYaPV08EPLvIkS2lFJqDFvUKnTYIgvIPmZzqpcuqLz1Dr6RoGhEk5hpSUcevPT80VHSny1eqiKFnfj\\_C.1FwuUnnD7cjs2dAi](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/dYaPV08EPLvIkS2lFJqDFvUKnTYIgvIPmZzqpcuqLz1Dr6RoGhEk5hpSUcevPT80VHSny1eqiKFnfj_C.1FwuUnnD7cjs2dAi)  
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