

JOINT TRACY CITY COUNCIL AND TRACY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza

Web Site: www.ci.tracy.ca.us

1. Mayor Ives called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Roll call found City Council Members Manne, Rickman, Young, Mayor Pro Tem Maciel and Mayor Ives present; Tracy Rural Fire Protection District Board Members Muniz, Smith and Vierra present; Board Member Ahmad and Chairman Thoming absent.
3. Items from the Audience – None.
4. REVIEW THE PROPOSED FY 13-14 FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND THE COST SPLIT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TRACY AND THE TRACY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – Fire Division Chief Dave Bramell provided the staff report. Division Chief Bramell stated that the City of Tracy and the Tracy Rural Fire Protection District (Tracy Rural) are the member agencies of the South County Fire Authority (SCFA). In addition, the Mountain House Community Services District (MHCS D) contracts with Tracy Rural for fire services. Services include several program areas such as fire administration, prevention, operations, and training. New fire equipment is evenly split between the City and Tracy Rural.

The cost distribution for fire services is calculated according to a formula that is based upon minimum staffing at stations throughout the SCFA. The cost for MHCS D is calculated first and deducted from the total with the balance then split 60%/40% respectively between the City of Tracy and Tracy Rural.

Due to the construction and relocation of Fire Station 92, requiring additional staffing, a new formula is required to reflect how costs will be allocated from February 2014, through June 2014. The station is anticipated to be operational by April 2014.

Of the 54 minimum staffing, approximately nine are allocated to MHCS D (one station with a three-person crew) and deducted from the minimum staffing total to calculate the staffing split between the City and Tracy Rural. As a result, the total minimum staffing is 45; 27 are allocated to the City and the remaining 18 are allocated to Tracy Rural.

The new cost formula reflects the City's share of 62.5% of the minimum staffing net of MHCS D (30/48) and 37.5% for Tracy Rural (18/48). From this split, the adjustment of 7% is added to the City's share and 7% deducted from Tracy Rural in consideration of cost for the number of calls for service handled by the City. The cost split between the City and Tracy Rural is 69.5% and 30.5% respectively. The split would also be calculated after deducting for MHCS D expenses.

The proposed change to the "Cost Split for Maintenance and Operations" will require an amendment of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the South County Fire Authority.

Effective FY 15/16, the cost formula would be revised again as the cost of the three-person crew at the relocated Station 92 would be transferred to Tracy Rural. Tracy Rural's share, less MHCS D, with the 7% adjustment would be approximately 36.75%.

The proposed FY 13/14 Fire Department program budget, less equipment replacement and overhead costs is \$15.6 million, a 2.3% increase compared to the FY 12/13 adopted budget of \$15.3 million. The increase reflects inflationary operational and benefit costs, coupled with recommended budget augmentations for FY 13/14.

FY 13/14 equipment replacement costs are \$636,950. Built in the base budget is approximately \$40,000 for emergency replacements. The total requested replacements for FY 13/14 is \$596,950. Replacement equipment is used to provide service across the jurisdictional area of the South County Fire Authority. The reason for replacement is typically due to worn or damaged equipment that has met its useful service life or state/local mandates that dictate replacement.

Equipment replacements are acquired through Fund 605. According to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, each agency is responsible to replace the capital property and equipment owned by City and District at the time of the agreement. The City at its sole expense, will be replacing a fire engine in FY 13/14. New equipment, however, is split evenly between the City and Tracy Rural. There are no new equipment requests proposed for FY 13/14.

FY 13/14 overhead or indirect costs, which are shared between the City, Tracy Rural and MHCS D, are approximately \$408,400.

The anticipated FY 13/14 allocation for the City, Tracy Rural, and MHCS D reflective of all applicable costs are:

Year	City of Tracy	Tracy Rural	MHCS D
FY 12/13	\$9.34M	\$3.94M	\$2.37M
FY 13/14	\$10.1M	\$3.95M	\$2.38M

The City of Tracy, Tracy Rural and MHCS D will each pay their proportionate share of the Fire Department budget based upon the adopted formula.

Staff recommended that City Council and Tracy Rural Fire District Board of Directors review the proposed Fire Department Budget for FY 13/14.

Council Member Rickman asked for clarification regarding the hazmat team. Division Chief Bramell stated the City has a team of hazmat material technicians and specialists and the remaining staff are either hazmat fro or first responder operational. Division Chief Bramell indicated for the City to effectively mitigate a hazmat incident, a minimum of six persons need to be trained in that area before entry can be made to ascertain the problem. Currently there are two qualified people per shift. Division Chief Bramell added that the City is a member of the San Joaquin Joint Hazardous Team. The service is free to the City with the understanding that the City reciprocates. Division Chief Bramell stated the City does not have enough staff on a daily basis to handle a basic hazmat incident as Tracy Fire. Council Member Rickman asked if the expansion would make that possible. Division Chief Bramell stated the City would still use the joint team, but the expansion would allow the City to take initial actions to offset further impacts.

Board Member Smith asked for clarification regarding the need for a contract medical director. Division Chief Bramell stated there was a gentleman's agreement in place with American Medical Response (AMR) in order to exchange narcotics. Division Chief Bramell further explained in order to perform advance life support, fire personnel use a number of drugs for treatment, and controlled substances require a signature. AMR has expressed a desire to discontinue this practice and have asked the City to look at another source. Division Chief Bramell indicated that fire personnel cannot obtain controlled substances without the agreement and signature of a licensed physician. Board Member Smith asked if Division Chief Bramell was fairly confident that the signature of a licensed physician would be secured. Division Chief Bramell stated he was fairly confident that the City would have a signed agreement in place with a licensed physician.

Mayor Ives invited members of the public to address the joint City Council and Tracy Rural Fire District Board Members.

Robert Tanner, 1371 Rusher Street, referred to the mutual fire aid for \$206,000 asking if that cost was between the City and Tract Rural or the State and if the City receives any reimbursement. Mr. Tanner also referred to Fire Station 91 constant staffing overtime costs of \$1 million asking if the City should hire another person to reduce overtime costs. Division Chief Bramell indicated the mutual aid of \$206,000 is budgeted but not allocated to any specific agency. Division Chief Bramell explained that it is not uncommon for a jurisdiction to be called upon to provide mutual aid throughout the State of California. The \$206,000 is budgeted to cover the personnel costs associated with providing mutual aid, however those expenditures are reimbursed throughout the fiscal year. Regarding overtime costs, Division Chief Bramell stated the City and Tracy Rural established a supplemental services agreement which included a plan based upon standards of coverage. Division Chief Bramell added that Tracy Rural has since rescinded that agreement due to fiscal restraints while the City has maintained their agreement for Fire Station 91. Division Chief Bramell indicated at the time the supplemental services agreement was put in place, the City had a relief pool which covered costs for sick leave, holidays, and vacation. In order to staff the supplemental services agreement, the City used the personnel assigned to the relief pool. Division Chief Bramell further indicated that the individuals working at Fire Station 91 were not earning overtime pay. Division Chief Bramell stated the cost of the agreement is borne by the City alone and is maintained separate from the formula.

Bob Sarvey, 501 W. Grantline Road, stated he would like to know how the 7% variance was established and if it had changed since 2002. Mr. Sarvey also asked why a city the size of Tracy did not have an adequate hazmat presence. Division Chief Bramell explained that he did not know exactly how the 7% variance was determined, but did know it was established through the process of negotiation and deemed to be a fair amount reflecting the calls for service largely being provided by the City.

Division Chief Bramell stated outside of Stockton, there were no other agencies in the County that enjoy the hazmat levels that Tracy does and was also the reason the City is a member of the joint team. Division Chief Bramell outlined the number of fire personnel who were currently trained but not receiving a stipend, and the additional personnel who would be receiving training through grant funds. Al Nero, Fire Chief, added that the City did a very thorough analysis regarding its ability to mitigate typical hazardous exposure

by looking at the different occupancies that handle, ship, store, or use hazardous materials. Chief Nero indicated that while the City does have hazmat staff on duty, the City still depends on the County team, which could take several hours to assemble on scene. Chief Nero stated the reason for the augmentation was because of the exposure Tracy has and its ability to handle certain scenarios.

Mr. Sarvey stated he objected to the cost allocation and the reduction in the number of stations protecting the rural area which he believed is inadequate. Mr. Sarvey discussed taking one station from rural, requiring the rural fire station to cover the mall, and asking rural residents to pay for it. Mr. Sarvey indicated rural has not received the revenue it is entitled to and asked Council to postpone action on the item and look at the 7% allocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Maciel asked staff to address the comment that Tracy Rural is paying for the Mall. Division Chief Bramell indicated Stations 92 and 96 were both moving further west. The relocated Station 92 in the west will pick up more areas in the City while still meeting rural objectives, while Station 96 will pick up deficiencies that existed at the mall based on performance objectives. Mayor Pro Tem Maciel asked who was paying for Station 92. Division Chief Bramell stated the cost would be shared by the City and Tracy Rural, and would be a joint station.

Council Member Young wanted assurance that the stations being moved would not negatively affect the rural area. Chief Nero stated the department conducted a standard of coverage study regarding the need for fire facilities and placement of fire resources. The study identified that there were service holes where the City could not meet the standards. Chief Nero stated Station 92 was being moved west and would still provide service in the Banta area within the prescribed standards of coverage and will be a station that serves both areas as does any other station.

5. Adjournment - It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Maciel and seconded by Council Member Young to adjourn. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered. The Tracy Rural Fire Protection District Board was adjourned. Time: 6:57 p.m.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on March 14, 2013. The above are summary minutes. A recording is available at the office of the City Clerk.

Mayor

City Clerk