

**TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC  
FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

Administrator/Planner Jeffrey Herrmann called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. Committee members present included Town Board Supervisor Erik Mullett, Town Board Supervisor VJ Scully, William Lincoln and Jo Goralski. Committee member Rosie Rutkowski was excused. The following members of the public were present: Bridget Dean, Oconomowoc Enterprise, Don & Sharon McGee, W393N5998 Mary Lane, Terry Siewert, N89W36869 Mapleton Road, Rick Mueller, N60W35120 Lake Drive, Kurt Schrang, N60W39496 Mary Lane, and Fire Chief Brad Bowen.

1. **Public Comments.**

Terry Siewert, N87W36869 Mapleton Road questioned if there would be talk regarding impact fees.

Town Board member VJ Scully stated a lot of factors go into what each community pays towards their share of fire department fees.

Rick Mueller, N60W35120 Lake Drive wanted to know if the Town is any closer at ownership on Western Lakes Fire District.

2. **Approve Minutes from December 12, 2023.** – Town Board Supervisor Scully made the motion to approve the December 12, 2023, minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Town Board Supervisor Mullett and passed unanimously.

3. **Discussion of Ownership on Western Lakes Fire District.** – The Committee went through the Western Lakes fees that are being collected in January and February and municipalities do not collect all the tax revenue until August and talked about there is no option to pay fees on a semi-annual or quarterly basis because Western Lakes would apply a penalty if not paid in time in January and February.

The second item discussed was the number of fire board members and the terms of those members. There were several options 7 members, 9 members or even 6 members. The 6-member board would ensure each municipality a spot on the board whereas, the other two options would give the bigger paying in municipality two spots on the board.

General discussion also included the Western Lakes budget for the next few years and that they are looking for 3.5% increase and it was also questioned as to why the increase because they are getting what they asked for through each one of the municipalities even though the referendum failed and there would not be any increases for 10 years if the referendum would have passed.

4. **Discussion on future Fire Fee for the Town of Oconomowoc.** – The Administrator/Planner handed out a packet of information at the last meeting

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regarding the fire fee. He stated that the Town would not have to borrow to cover the fire departments fees if they implemented this process because each tax parcel will get charged a set fee. The Committee along with Administrator/Planner Herrmann went through each one of the fire fees that the Town of Sugar Creek, Town of Hoard, Town of Ottawa, Town of Merton, Village of Summitt and the Village of Dousman have implemented to cover the fire department costs without borrowing money.

5. **Set Next Meeting Date.** – The next meeting date is set for March 19, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.
6. **Adjourn.** – Committee member Lincoln made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m., the motion was seconded by Town Board Supervisor Mullett and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted –  
Lori Opitz, WCMC  
Clerk/Treasurer