

Past Two Years User Fee Discussions – For Reference

Jan 10, 2022 Minutes

22-23 Budget and Fee Schedule: Jeremy made a motion to increase the 22-23 rates 10% percent over 21-22 year's rates across the board with the board doing a review and making a 3-year recommendation fee schedule plan by June 30th, 2022, Rob second, motion carried unanimously.

Nov 14, 2022 Minutes

23-24 Budget and Fee Schedule: Keith reviewed the 2022-2023 fee schedule which included a 10% increase raising the budget income to \$110,000. Discussion followed regarding the need for future fee increases to provide project funding. Brandon said there should be a built-in yearly increase to the fee schedule coinciding with rising costs. Mike agreed and said they should have a 3-year plan for a 10% increase and then revisit. Jeremy agreed and felt all users paying fees should be informed ahead of time of the planned increases. Mike said someone needs to draft a letter that can be sent out to inform the users. Mike asked who should be in attendance as representation on the board. Discussion followed regarding makeup of the e-board. Mike said he feels they are behind financially to be prepared for technology upgrades. Fees need to increase to build reserves that will support funding necessary upgrades. Bradley feels the cost could be rolled into a grant for radio upgrades. Brandon said that could be an option, but they do not know that project cost to make an informed decision. Keith said there is no system administrator, nor anyone on the board extending personnel resources committed to projects, monitoring, or other business matters. Discussion followed regarding the financial position of the group, financial reserves, and support personnel. Jeremy asked if the consulting group provided in their plan a dollar amount necessary to upgrade the system. Brandon said the analysis did not provide enough detail to put a dollar amount on the cost of total upgrades. Jeremy said they need someone that can advise the group on necessary upgrades and spend time to develop a 5-year plan that can be acted on. Brandon said he supports a 2023-2024 10% increase to user fees. He also agrees with Jeremy that they need to look at what the next system needs to be capable of and make an outline. If a consultant is needed after that then they could pursue it.

Jeremy motioned to adjust the annual rate with a 10% increase for the 2023-2024 user fees, Brandon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Jan 9, 2023 Minutes

23-24 Budget and Fee Schedule: The group reviewed and discussed the budget and fee schedule. Keith said Merrill PD is no longer viable and currently Malin is contracting with Merrill. This brought up a question Jessica had asked as to where the Merrill bill should be sent.

Brandon said he has been informed that Merrill is trying to reestablish. Consensus was to send the bill to Merrill and let them decide how to handle.

Keith motioned to approve the budget and fee schedule, Brandon seconded, motion carried unanimously.