

City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting Tuesday, August 22, 2017 – 6:30pm.

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 6:30pm. Chairman Chuck Lore called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Randy Schissel, Andy Carlson and Steve Luse. Others in attendance: Staff, Jeff Ode, Darren Sander, Chief Mike Ashbacher and City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

1. Discussion regarding bees and bothersome animals ordinance

Bird introduced local resident Rick Brown and noted he was inquiring about the city's bee ordinance / bothersome animals and asked if the city had ever considered allowing for their use. He has asked for time in front of the city's public safety committee for review of the current ordinance and presentation of a case to repeal the measure that prohibits bees and bee keeping in the city limits.

Mr. Brown was accompanied by Dr. Kirk Larsen, an entomologist from Luther College and together they provided a little background on the hobby and nature of beekeeping.

They asked that the city's code section 6.12 be amended to allow for beekeeping and to remove bees from the bothersome animal listing.

In discussion, Luse, Carlson, and Lore spoke in favor of the measure with Schissel expressing some concerns. Specifically, Schissel noted that he was concerned about those that might be allergic to bees and how they might be protected.

Larsen noted that bees generally have a five-mile fly zone and are really already in the Decorah community. He also stated he would send some additional information for council study.

With some support, the item was referred to full city council for consideration.

2. Discussion regarding sale of old aerial truck

Bird noted the general response and inquiry has been strong. He distributed a list of those expressing interest. He reported that one department is making arrangements to come and see the truck. They have requested the truck be current on ladder and pump testing. Chief Ashbacher is working on making sure the testing and needed repairs are completed.

There were no other reports.

3. Discussion regarding equipment

1. Washing machine purchase

Chief Ashbacher report the department has been exploring options to replace their washing machine equipment. He presented several key points in favor of purchasing and new washing machine for the department's use.

Schissel asked if other city departments could use the machine. The consensus was if funding was available in the city budget it was alright to purchase the washing machine. Chief did not see the need to purchase the dryer unit at this time.

4. Discussion regarding code amendments, Section 2.14 and 2.48

Bird noted that per council action on June 5th he was submitting proposed code amendments for the committee to review.

After discussion and input from some of the volunteers language was agreed upon for submittal.

28e Rural Fire Board and Public Safety Committee
7:30 p.m.

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 7:30pm. Dan Beard called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Chuck Lore, Randy Schissel, Andy Carlson and Steve Luse. Others in attendance: Fire Chief Mike Ashbacher and City Manager Chad Bird.

Rural Fire Board representatives in attendance included: Rick Monson, Highland – Hesper Township; Daniel Beard, Pleasant Township; Wayne Wicks, Canoe Township, Jim Ludeking, Decorah Township, Tony Meyer and Gary Smorstad, Glenwood Township. Absent: Louis Courtney, Bluffton Township

Agenda

1. Discussion regarding sale of old aerial truck

Bird and Ashbacher shared information relative to the interest in the old aerial truck.

Bird noted the general response and inquiry has been strong. He distributed a list of those expressing interest. He reported that one department is making arrangements to come and see the truck. They have requested the truck be current on ladder and pump testing. Chief Ashbacher is working on making sure the testing and needed repairs are completed.

2. Review matters of mutual concern

Ashbacher noted that he is working through new turnout gear and working with the vendor on some warranty issues.

Chief next noted that the department's new UTV will be delivered soon. He noted it is a Kawasaki and is being financed by the volunteer association.

Ashbacher provided an update on the drone use and drone school recently attended and also that he continues to work with city attorney Zahasky on the mutual aid 28e agreements.

3. Other business

The next meeting was sent for October 24, 2017 at 6:30pm.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

