

## **City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2018 – 5:30pm.**

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:30pm. Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Johanna Bergan, Andy Carlson and Ross Hadley. Others in attendance: Staff, Jeff Ode, Chief Mike Ashbacher and City Manager Chad Bird.

28e Rural Fire Board and Public Safety Committee  
Met jointly as above.

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:30pm.

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

Absent: Wayne Wicks, Canoe Township.

### **Agenda**

#### Joint items

#### 1. Fire Chief and Volunteer Assoc. report

*Chief Asbacher provided a report on recent activities. He reviewed a new mutual aid agreement that he and county attorney Andy Van der Maatan had recently completed. Chief noted that he hoped the final agreements would be signed soon.*

*Chief noted the new agreements provide more descriptions of services and responsiveness to various call scenarios.*

*This opened a discussion on drone use and mutual aid calls outside the county. While those in attendance agreed the department needs to be responsive to mutual aid calls for service, there was a question as to who should pay for what calls and where.*

*The joint board agreed to split costs for calls outside the county. The cost sharing would be 50 / 50 between the rural association and the city.*

*Chief noted there are 29 members of the department and two members currently in training*

*Chief stated the department has applied for two significant grants; one with the DNR for wildland gear. He stated the grant application is for \$3,500. He also noted the department has applied to the Winneshiek County Foundation for new fire-resistant hoods for the firefighter's gear. He also explained and demonstrated how the hoods work and the current limitations of the existing hoods.*

#### 2. Review matters of mutual concern

*Bird asked if the boards had any issues to discuss in the upcoming agreement renewal period. Seeing there were none, the board noted Bird need not send the usual annual letter of notification to negotiate the agreement. The agreement will automatically renew for the term.*

City items

3. Discussion regarding Chapter 5.16 Taxicabs and the licensing thereof  
*Bird introduced this item and noted there are several deficiencies in the current code section. Specifically, he asked about the section calling for the police chief to make a character determination for each license applicant. Bird noted the current code does not provide for guidance as to the character flaws which might be grounds for a license denial. Bird asked the committee to consider a repeal of the ordinance and regulations or for a tightening of the regulations.*

*The committee agreed to study the issue in more detail.*

4. Deer Depredation  
*There was general conversation about this matter and the committee desired to do something about the issue. Hadley presented some discussion material and agreed to do additional research on options.*

5. Other business  
*The board set the following meeting dates and times.*

Proposed meetings for 2018  
*At least quarterly per the 28e agreement  
Tradition has been fourth Tuesday*

January 23, 2018  
April 24, 2018 – 5:00pm  
July 24, 2018 – 5:00pm  
October 23, 2018 – 5:00pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

