

City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting Tuesday, July 24, 2018 – 5:00pm.

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 5:00pm. Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley. Others in attendance: Staff, Jeff Ode, Zach Kerndt and First Assistant Chief Jeff Clement and Second Assistant Chief Lee Bjerke, and City Manager Chad Bird.

Absent: Johanna Bergan, and Andy Carlson.

Agenda

City
5:00pm

1. Dept report

Bjerke provided an update on department activity and noted the department is currently staffed at 30 members. Ode commented that a couple of the volunteers maybe in transition. Bjerke also noted that continued staffing will be a problem as up to one-third of the volunteer membership may be aging out of the force in the coming few years and the department hasn't seen growth in recruiting.

There was brief mention of increasing the age-out requirement which is contained in the volunteer association's bylaws.

Bjerke also noted:

Brake work on Engine 1 and the scheduled Tower 1 required 5-year non-destructive test on the boom/ladder assembly. He also noted Engine 1, Engine 10 and Tower 1 will also have pump testing completed in the next 1-2 months.

He recapped information on a proposal/request the volunteer group made to the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors on Monday July 23 for a training center site. He reviewed the vision of the volunteers for this facility. The volunteers will fund a training facility that will allow training for many of the aspects for which the dept is called out to respond.

Bjerke noted they are still in the early stages but are in need of a site that will be "neighbor friendly" when conducting training burns or making noise in the evening when the dept primarily trains.

It was also discussed the volunteer group will pursue trench rescue/building collapse training as well as purchase additional equipment that will aid in this area of technical rescue.

Bjerke added that with the addition of this technical rescue equipment and training, the dept will look to purchase a trailer that will house almost all equipment used for special and technical rescue.

2. Fire staff and volunteer dept.

Kerndt opened this item with the inquiry as to why he could not serve as both a staff fire engineer and a volunteer responder. There was considerable discussion on this matter with Kerndt adding that it didn't see right that the best staff is being kept off a scene.

Bird added that his decision was based on a review of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRS), otherwise known as chapter 411 (of the Iowa Code). He reviewed the risks open to the city.

Ode questioned why the staff couldn't respond to volunteer calls and only perform work that matches their regular staff duties, such as operating the pumper trucks.

Hadley stated that seemed a valid point.

The item was left on the table for staff to discuss.

3. Deer depredation

Bird noted he had spoken with the Iowa DNR and together they suggest an open deer season on all city or public land with the city reimbursing for tags on antlerless does.

It was noted that the seasons would need to coincide with State of Iowa rules and regulations.

4. Anti-idling ordinance review

Luse introduced the proposed ordinance for discussion and review.

Comments from the public indicated a desire to be more "educational" in the ordinance's approach to public engagement.

Owing to the lack of council attendance, there was little other discussion.

5. Other business

a. Fire house / municipal building driveway

Bird shared with the committee the issues with the driveway and street approach. There was general discussion on this matter. The Engineers noted the front bumpers are hitting the street as the trucks make the transition from the driveway to the street. The back of Tower 1 (stabilization pads on the outriggers) also are making contact with the driveway when the truck makes the transition to the street.

There is concern of potential damage to vital structures or piping of the trucks.

Bird noted a total estimated repair could be in the \$45,000 range. He also noted looking at just the street approach may be in the \$10,000 range.

28e Rural Fire Board and Public Safety Committee

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 6:00pm.

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

Agenda

Joint
6:00pm

1. Fire Chief and Volunteer Assoc. report

Bjerke provided an update on department activity and noted the department is currently staffed at 30 members. Ode commented that a couple of the volunteers maybe in transition. Bjerke also noted that continued staffing will be a problem as up to one-third of the volunteer membership may be aging out of the force in the coming few years and the department hasn't seen growth in recruiting.

Bjerke and Bird reviewed items previously discussed with the city committee with the rural committee.

Bjerke also noted fire calls are at 136 on the year ahead of last year's total of 130.

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2. Review matters of mutual concern

Bird noted the next meeting dates and the committee agreed to meet with the city committee on October 23, 2018 at 6:00pm and the rural committee at 7:00pm.

Proposed meetings for 2018

*At least quarterly per the 28e agreement
Tradition has been fourth Tuesday*

January 23, 2018
April 24, 2018
July 24, 2018
October 23, 2018

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

