

## City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 6:00pm.

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:00pm. Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, and Johanna Bergan. 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: Andy Carlson.

### Agenda

City  
6:00pm

#### 1. Department quarterly report

*Bjerke provided an update on department activity and noted the department is currently staffed at 30 members of 35 possible. He noted there are three on probationary status. 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 further noted:*

*There are 178 calls for service so far in 2018 compared with 103 for all of 2017. He further noted the department has submitted a DNR grant for wildland equipment. Chief Ashbacher is applying for 9 sets of wildland gear.*

*Bjerke further mentioned the department continues to train in trenching and shoring rescues and safe practices.*

*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.

*Bjerke opened this item by stating the department believes all three driver / engineers should be treated with equal administrative status. He referred to the job description and believed that all three positions should be treated equally, specifically in regard 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.*

*Bjerke and Kerndt discussed the fact that the job description already prohibits the engineers from fighting fires or engaging in fire suppression. So, the question was raised as to why they couldn't operate the pumps and engines.*

*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 (MFPRSI), otherwise known as chapter 411 (of the Iowa Code). He reviewed the risks open to the city.*

*Bird suggested that since there was only three council persons attending the meeting, and not wanting to wait until the next quarterly meeting, there should be a personnel committee meeting to discuss the matter further.*

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

#### 3. Deer depredation

*Luse asked if the committee would support a city sponsored program in which the city would reimburse for deer tags. There was general support.*

4. Anti-idling ordinance review  
*Luse stated that this issue was going to be turned over to the city's sustainability plan team for further review.*
5. Other business
  - a. There was no other business

#### 28e Rural Fire Board and Public Safety Committee

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, and Johanna Bergan. 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: Andy Carlson.

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;

Absent:  
Gary Smorstad, Glenwood Township;  
Wayne Wicks, Canoe Township.

#### Agenda

Joint  
7:00pm

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

*Bjerke provided an update on department activity and noted the department is currently staffed at 30 members of 35 possible. He noted there are three on probationary status. 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 further noted:*

*There are 178 calls for service so far in 2018 compared with 103 for all of 2017. He further noted the department has submitted a DNR grant for wildland equipment. Chief Ashbacher is applying for 9 sets of wildland gear.*

*Bjerke further mentioned the department continues to train in trenching and shoring rescues and safe practices.*

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*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. Review matters of mutual concern

*Bird noted the next meeting dates. There was discussion about meeting on Monday, after a city council meeting and both boards agreed that would help with attendance from the city committee.*

Proposed meetings for 2019

*At least quarterly per the 28e agreement*

*Tradition has been fourth Tuesday*

*The joint board would like to consider the third Monday after the regular city council meeting.*

January 21, 2019

April 15, 2019

July 15, 2019

October 21, 2019

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

