

City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – 6:30pm.

Immediately following the regular session of the City Council (6:30pm)

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 6:30pm. Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Johanna Bergan, and Andy Carlson. Others in attendance: Staff, Fire Chief Mike Ashbacher, Jeff Ode, First Assistant Chief Jeff Clement and Second Assistant Chief Lee Bjerke, Kyle Kohls, and City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

City

1. Dept report / budget requests

Ashbacher reviewed several data points for the dept. He noted the volunteer level is currently 31 members with two on probationary status. He also noted there were 205 calls for service so far this year.

Ashbacher noted the dept is looking into new thermal imaging cameras noting the age on the existing cameras and the difficulty in securing reliable batteries.

He thought the city, county, and volunteers would each purchase one new camera.

Ashbacher noted the dept has received the new tactical trailer and is working on setting it up to store and carry all the dept's specialized gear.

He noted some issues with the rural tanker and that it may be repaired under warranty work with no costs incurred by the dept.

Ashbacher noted he and his crew is looking into new pack alarms as most are pretty old and have some issues.

2. Update on fire training facility

Ashbach and Kohls reviewed the new proposed training facility. He noted the county has agreed to use of land and the volunteers are working to secure old storage containers that may be constructed in such a way as to provide a full training facility.

3. Fire staff and volunteer dept.

a. Proposed changes to recruitment policies

The membership reviewed some possible changes to the bylaws and codes allowing for implementation of a junior program and possibly lifting restrictions on the maximum age for volunteer service.

4. Other business

Ashbacher noted that Tower One has some pump leak issues and he is looking into the repairs necessary. He noted that there appears to be some considerable corrosion on the inside of the pump.

28e Rural Fire Board and Public Safety Committee

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 7:00pm.

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Rural Fire Board representatives in attendance included:

Gary Smorstad, Glenwood Township;
Daniel Beard, Pleasant Township;
Jim Ludeking, Springfield Township;
Tony Meyer, Decorah Township;
Wayne Wicks, Canoe Township.

Absent:

Rick Monson, Highland – Hesper Township;
Louis Courtney, Bluffton Township.

Joint

1. Fire Chief and Volunteer Assoc. report
Ashbacher reviewed several data points for the dept. He noted the volunteer level is currently 31 members with two on probationary status. He also noted there were 205 calls for service so far this year.

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2. Review matters of mutual concern
 1. 28e agreement issues
All present agreed there were no issues with the 28e agreement and that it could remain in force for another year.

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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 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

