

**City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting  
Monday, April 15, 2019 – 6:30pm.**

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

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 6:30pm. Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Johanna Bergan, and Andy Carlson. Kirk Johnson, Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Wanda Hemesath were also in attendance. Others in attendance: Staff, Fire Chief Mike Ashbacher, Jeff Ode, Zach Kerndt, First Assistant Chief Jeff Clement and Second Assistant Chief Lee Bjerke, Kyle Kohls, and City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

City

1. Dept quarterly report

*Ashbacher reviewed several data points for the dept. for this quarter. He noted the volunteer level is currently 28 members with one resignation and one new member. He also noted there were 43 calls for service so far this year.*

2. Update on fire training facility

*Ashbacher noted the training facility plans, that fundraising is doing well, and most structural equipment is on site. He reviewed participation from Black Hills Energy, Alliant Energy and others that are providing funding, labor, or materials.*

*Ashbacher noted the volunteers would be required to reimburse the County for insurance coverage expenses.*

*He also reviewed the general site layout and explained some of the features of the training facility. He concluded the facility would be open for police and the SRT team also.*

3. Discussion and review of 28e agreement to establish a fire training facility

*Ashbacher reviewed the 28e agreement and Bird stated the committee had received a copy. Ashbacher stated the agreement would require the volunteer dept would need to turn over equipment to the city dept and / or the county.*

*Ashbacher expected the County to review and approve the 28e at the next County Board of Supervisors' meeting then be presented to the City Council for approval.*

4. Fire staff and volunteer dept.

a. Proposed changes to recruitment policies

*Ashbacher turned the meeting over to Kyle Kohls for an update on some recruitment changes.*

*Kohl noted the dept is looking into a Junior program and are currently defining the terms and guidelines for a junior membership program.*

*Kohl noted he, Bird, and Clement had met to discuss and would continue to meet and discuss options and issues for insurance. Hemesath noted a review should be completed with IMWCA, ICAP, and the city's attorney for compliance with any insurance or legal requirements.*

5. Discussion regarding city policy on employee volunteers

*Carlson and Luse opened this discussion noting the current volunteer situation should be one way or the other, all are allowed to volunteer, or none are.*

*Steve Smith noted the volunteers had asked for a Personnel Committee meeting but had not yet received one. He noted the volunteers wanted to see "volunteers" removed from the conversation and wanted all Drivers to be able to respond to all calls, whether working or not.*

*There was additional and general conversation with no resolution to the issue.*

Joint meeting with the public safety committee and the 28e Rural Fire Association Board of Trustees

28e Rural Fire Board and Public Safety Committee

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:10pm.

Rural Fire Board representatives in attendance included:

Gary Smorstad, Glenwood Township;  
Daniel Beard, Pleasant Township;  
Jim Ludeking, Springfield Township;  
Wayne Wicks, Canoe Township;  
Rick Monson, Highland – Hesper Township;  
Louis Courtney, Bluffton Township.

Absent:  
Tony Meyer, Decorah Township;

*Joint*

1. Fire Chief and Volunteer Assoc. report  
*Chief Ashbacher gave the same report as noted above to the City Committee.*
2. Review matters of mutual concern
  1. 28e agreement issues  
*There were no shared issues.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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