

**City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2019 – 6:30pm.**

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

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:30pm. Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, and Andy Carlson. Mayor Lorraine Borowski and Emily Neal were also in attendance.

Others in attendance: Staff, Fire Chief Mike Ashbacher, Jeff Ode, Zach Kerndt, First Assistant Chief Jeff Clement, Kyle Kohls, and City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

City

1. Dept quarterly report
Chief Ashbacher provided a quarterly report on department activities. He noted the volunteer department has 33 members with four on probationary status.

Chief reported 485 quarterly call hours for the department.
2. Update on fire training facility
Chief reported the volunteers have done a wonderful job on the training facility having logged over 1,600 hours on construction and set-up. He noted the site should not be prone to flooding and the water department assisted in extending a hydrant to the site for the training facility.

He noted the training facility is almost complete and the volunteers are working on the inside of the units. He also noted they plan to install a live grain bin training component to the site. He thanked all those that supported the project, it has been very well received and supported. He believed the department raised \$125,000 for the development and construction of the facility.
3. Proposed upgrade of water rescue equipment
Chief Ashbacher noted the next fundraiser for the department appears to be water rescue equipment. He noted the department is looking at boats, motors, and equipment that will make it easier to navigate the Upper Iowa River especially during low flow times. He noted the proposed costs for better equipment to be in the \$30,000 range.
4. Future equipment needs
Chief mentioned some structure gear and lighted safety vests as some of the next equipment he is looking to replace.
5. Building codes and rental inspections
Councilman Ross Hadley raised the issue of looking into having fire personnel provide inspections for the city, whether building codes and / or rental inspections.

Chief, and association president Steve Smith noted the department already does a fair amount of pre-planning with several building owners and businesses in the downtown area.

In additional discussion, some wondered if having the full-time engineers act as inspectors maybe that would solve the FLSA issues.

6. City vehicle use policy
Luse reviewed the city's vehicle policy and noted a recent violation of the policy. There was discussion about what is and what is not allowed, and Chief reported an historical perspective on the use of fire vehicles for weddings.

There was some discussion by council about funerals and Bird noted if the council wished to allow the use for city sanctioned events, including funerals he would recommend a review of the policy by the City's property and casualty insurance company.

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

The 28e Rural Fire Board and the City Public Safety Committee met on Monday, October 21, 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
2. Review matters of mutual concern
 1. 28e agreement issues

There were no shared issues. Bird noted he would be sending the obligatory letter regarding 28e negotiations as required in the 28e. Neither he, the council, nor the rural trustees raised any discussion points.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Proposed meetings for 2020

At least quarterly per the 28e agreement

The joint board would like to consider the third Monday after the regular city council meeting (October 23, 2018).

January 21, 2020
April 20, 2020
July 20, 2020
October 19, 2020