

## City of Decorah Public Safety Committee and 28e Rural Fire Board Joint Meeting Tuesday, June 1, 2021 – 5:45 pm.

The City of Decorah Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 5:45 pm. Chairman Emily Neal called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Steve Zitterguern. Absent: Andy Carlson. Others in attendance: Mayor Lorraine Borowski. Staff, Fire Chief Mike Ashbacher, Jeff Ode, and Interim City Manager Wanda Hemesath.

### Public Safety Committee Agenda

#### 1. 28E Agreement with Rural Fire

*Interim City Manager Wanda Hemesath presented information regarding Rural Fire expenses since 2015 which is the last time contribution amounts were raised.*

*Staff recommended an increase to \$55,147 derived using the 7-year average expenses, as outlined in the contract, and utilizing a 35% contribution rate.*

*Staff further recommended benefits and other staff expenses should be included for reimbursement purposes. If implemented reimbursement would be at \$103,086 which would be a significant increase at one time.*

*Given the late date for finalizing this contract, general consensus to request \$55,000 for FY22 and to begin discussions with Rural Fire to add benefits and other staff expenses over a period of time for future years*

#### 2. Recommendation Ad Hoc Committee on Fire Station Consultant

*The Ad Hoc committee of Jeff Ode, Fire Engineer, Zach Kerndt, Fire Engineer, Mike Ashbacher, Fire Chief, Lorraine Borowski, Mayor and Wanda Hemesath, Interim City Manager advised meeting with 3 consulting firm – Ethos Design Group, Emergency Architecture and Brunton Architect and Engineers.*

*The committee unanimously recommend Brunton Engineering/Architecture for the following reasons:*

*Expertise in design of public safety buildings-President and CEO is the Lead Design Architect with 30 years of experience and has over a decade of volunteer firefighter experience*

*Award winning public safety design firm*

*Sensitivity to the life, safety and welfare of building occupants*

*Self-developed site evaluation/selection matrix*

*Self-developed 3D modeling program allowing for visual 3D details of the proposed finished product – both interior and exterior*

*History of completing finished project within budget*

### Agenda

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

*Joint mtg*

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

*1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Lee Bjerke reported department activities over the past several months.*

#### 2. 28E Agreement Issues

*Hemesath reviewed the itemized expenses since 2015 and spreadsheet of Fire responses by category 2015-2020.*

*Breakdown of call reflects at least half are rural call.*

*Discussion was held on the city's increase proposal for FY22 and proposal to add reimbursement for benefits/other staff costs to the reimbursable items.*

*Rural Fire needs to meet with their membership to discuss. Further discussion at next quarterly meeting July 19.*

Rural Fire Board representatives in attendance included:

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

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda Semerath". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Proposed meetings for 2021

*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 18, 2021~~ – February 1, 2021

April 19, 2021

July 19, 2021

October 18, 2021