

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE BUHL CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUHL RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
JANUARY 31, 2018

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Elizabeth Barker	City Treasurer
Kyle Hauser	Council Member	Neal Gier	Fire District Chairman
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Les Preader	Fire District Commissioner
Pam McClain	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Karen Drown	City Clerk	Andrew Wright	Buhl City Attorney
		Concerned Citizens	

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. Karen Drown confirmed a quorum for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of January 15, 2018: Pam moved to approve the minutes from January 15, 2018. Kyle seconded the motion. Neal wanted clarification in the minutes on page 2 paragraph 2 and wanted the minutes to read: "Idaho Code 67-2805 (3) (v) -- when sealed bids have been received, they shall be opened in public at a designated place and time". Les moved that the minutes be approved with the changes as noted. Sue seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Submitted Bids for Fire Equipment: Pam moved to consider bids for fire equipment. Kyle seconded the motion. Andrew summarized his presentations from the last meeting on the bids received. He noted that manufacturers were looked at based on available service in the area for the equipment. Rosenbauer helped write the specs but the bid package stated that equipment could be equal or equivalent so they were not brand specific. Andrew stated that Rosenbauer is the lowest bidder. Sutphen was the next lowest bid with a mid-mount truck but that is not what was specced. Tom asked Chief Stevens if the trucks met the specifications of the bid and Andrew replied yes. Tom asked if any of the trucks had come in at or below budgeted amount and Andrew again replied yes.

There was discussion about the difference between a rear-mount and a mid-mount and why the rear-mount was preferred. It was noted that the Fire Capital Fund budget was jointly approved on June 19, 2017. Tom asked Andrew if he had been present at District Fire meetings when the truck had been discussed and Andrew replied that he had. Les stated that he didn't know specs were drawn up.

There was discussion about the specs for the truck and the opportunity to review or discuss that with Chief Stevens. Kyle commented on how the process works through Council and that direction is given to staff through the budget and they proceed with that plan. Les commented that he had been asked by a constituent what was being bought and why a different apparatus was not being considered. Andrew responded with information regarding the different types of apparatus. Pam questioned what happened between the time the budget was voted on and now to change the direction of the Buhl Rural Fire Protection District plans for the apparatus. Les stated he would like to see more emphasis on fire prevention and mitigation. There was discussion on options for that prevention and mitigation. Kyle asked Les why he hasn't asked for that to be an agenda item for previous meetings.

The discussion continued on the difference between the functions of the City Council and the BRFPD commissioners. Neal stated the commissioners are more hands-on than Council.

Kyle added that he relied on Chief Stevens to do the job he was hired to do. He added that he originally was against the truck but Chief Stevens presentation broaden his outlook to the equipment needed to fight fires on structures both in the city and the district. It would also make it safer for the firefighters on the front lines.

Time was taken to allow the members to look through the bids. There was a discussion about the size of the truck and some of the features that was different from current apparatus that is used. It was also discussed the maneuverability of the truck in areas of the city and the district.

The discussion concluded. It was noted there was no action required for this agenda item so no vote was necessary for the motion on the floor. The vote would be for the next agenda item.

Decision regarding Notice of Intent to Award Contract: It was noted the bid price was lower than the budgeted amount. Pam moved to award the bid to Rosenbauer. Kyle seconded the motion. Neal noted according to the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) there needs to be a written agreement. He read paragraph 2 section 2.1. Mayor McCauley stated he felt that the agreement shown by the written budget serves as a written agreement. Elizabeth retrieved the approved budget worksheets. She noted that the group had approved a Joint Capital Fund Budget with a city contribution of \$400,000 and a BRFPD contribution of \$400,000. On the expenditure side, the purchase of a quint for \$750,000 was budgeted with \$50,000 budgeted for future fire equipment. There was a roll call vote on the motion. For the BRFPD Les voted no and Neal voted no. For the Buhl City Council Sue voted yes, Pam voted yes and Kyle voted yes. It was noted that because the Joint Management Agreement requires one vote for the District and one vote for the City, the motion failed.

Direction to the Administration to send Letters to Bidders: It was noted that since the motion failed there was no reason to send letters. Pam asked Neal why he had changed his mind since voting on budget in July. Neal noted that he voted on the budget but the district works different from the city. Kyle asked what the gap was and how the two groups could move forward together. Neal moved that we wash our hands of the current bid process by rejecting all bids then get a clear written agreement between the city and BRFPD outlining the purchase and the ownership of the truck as per JMA, as well as establishing written joint bid policies before re-entering the bid process. Kyle seconded the motion. Mayor McCauley stated that because this topic was not on the agenda, a motion to amend the agenda would be required. Kyle moved to amend the agenda and add discussion of bidding process. Neal seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. For the BRFPD Les voted no, Neal voted yes. For the Buhl City Council Sue voted yes, Pam voted no, Kyle voted yes. The motion failed.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – Glenn Van Patten addressed the group stating they need to come together. He added he knows Andrew and trained him. He wants the community to be covered by Andrew and his crew. He stated the group didn't need to dissolve over one deal, which has never been done before. He noted the error of his appointment and was glad that was brought the attention of BRFPD and he hopes he can be in the group in the future.

Bob Linderman stated he supported what Glenn had said. He also suggested getting training for the meetings and that hopefully that training would help the group move forward in the joint venture smoothly.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Kyle moved to adjourn the meeting; Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.