

MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BUHL CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUHL RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
January 20, 2020

PRESENT:

Michael Higbee	Council President	Neal Gier	Fire District Chairman
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Glenn Van Patten	Fire District Commissioner
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Bob Linderman	Fire District Commissioner
Karen Drown	Clerk	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief

The meeting was opened at 6:35 p.m. Karen Drown confirmed a quorum for the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes of October 21, 2019:** Neal moved to approve the minutes from October 21, 2019. Sue seconded the motion. Bob noted that on line five it stated exiting and he thought it should be existing and Sue noted that she was not listed as being at the meeting and she did actually attend. There was no further discussion and the motion passed with the noted changes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review of Pending Fund Transfer:** Karen noted Elizabeth was unable to attend the meeting but noted in a general discussion about the item that the transfer would follow the Joint Management Agreement. She didn't provide any exact numbers to not misquote the amount to be divided. She also noted this is not an action item because the agreement states the transfer will take place. The only action needed to be done is by city council on the city's portion to transfer their portion from the fire fund to the general fund.

**Discussion of Health Insurance Coverage for Fire Personal:** Neal explained he had discussed health coverage with a company at the commissioner's conference. III-A had presented him information regarding coverage available and the process to get a quote for coverage. He added the Buhl Highway District just switched to III-A in November and it will save them about \$20,000.00 on premium costs. Michael stated he was familiar with the coverage through the pharmacy but from what he has seen they have a limited network on prescriptions. Karen explained she had made contact with the city's current insurance broker who said they are familiar with the coverage. She noted that some carriers will not allow an entity to have multiple policies and coverage from the current plan would need to be compared to what was being offered. The final piece was the city's policy just renewed on January 1, 2020 any kind for change would probably need to occur January 1, 2021. Neal stated he had contacted several of the other entities that had the III-A coverage and they felt good about the plan. He added he just wants the firemen to have the best coverage possible. There was a discussion of the possibility that a plan might be different for firefighters than those of city and highway districts. Consensus of the group was Karen would do additional research into the coverage and report back at the April quarterly meeting.

**Discussion of Fire Donation Fund and History of Fund:** Neal stated Elizabeth had emailed out a copy of the city audit and he noticed there was \$88,000.00 in the fire donation fund. He was just wondering if there were plans for the funds and if not, should it be put into something that gets a better interest rate. Andrew explained he always saw the account as a rainy-day fund, for example he is attempting to go after a grant for a new compressor but if that is not awarded then he might have to use these funds because his operating and maintenance budget does not allow for those expenses. Consensus was to have Elizabeth research possible interest rates and options for the funds.

**Update on Quint Truck:** Chassis should be completed around the first of February and they will send the first invoice. They will then mount the latter and do finish work. Andrew stated he has figured around the end of April for delivery. There was a discussion on who should go and do the inspection on the truck. Andrew stated it maybe a good idea to have a mechanic look it over for anything that stands out to him. He also noted that if they needed to be there quickly, he would have Paul go. It was commented that Paul did help spec the truck for the bid.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS –** There were none.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Neal moved to adjourn the meeting; Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

