

MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BUHL CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUHL RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
October 18, 2021

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Neal Gier	Fire District Chairman
Michael Higbee	Council President	Glenn Van Patten	Fire District Commissioner
Pam McClain	Council Member	Bob Linderman	Fire District Commissioner
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Karen Drown	Clerk	Mike Ruffing	Fire District Clerk
Autumn Jones	Treasurer	Concerned Citizens	

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes of April 19, 2021:** Pam moved to approve the minutes from July 19, 2021. Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Update from City of Buhl & BRFPD on entity activities:** Neal presented information that they have been working on stage 1 which was all covered. He explained stage 2 which is committing to building the station and they would start getting bids. This stage has not been started yet. Michael asked if the district was going to get bids, Neal stated they had not got bids yet. Michael asked if they had plans and Glenn stated they did and Pam noted council hadn't seen any yet. Andrew stated he would send plans to Karen and she could forward them to council. There was a discussion about who the district spoke with from Morton. Mike Ruffing responded with the district spoke with Steve Kaes. It was clarified there is no window to act and commit to stage 2. Tom noted the city had never received the district minutes that were requested at the last meeting. It was stated the city would like the past six months and make a standing order to have the district clerk forward all future minutes.

Karen explained a project she is working on combining all the joint meeting minutes into one file so they can be searched by any topic. Tom added this will allow any new members to do their research in the history on any topic. The city has several seats up for election in November.

**Review and Consideration of Budget Amendment to look at population split:** Karen reviewed the population calculation findings from the formula the district had presented at the last meeting. There was a breakdown provided in the packet that showed the approved budget amounts and the difference if the population was updated based on the formula. The net affect would be the city would contribute \$5329 more and the district would contribute \$6330 less to the budget. Michael noted the city is taking a much higher taxable value than the district based on what is taxed. There was further discussion that property taxes are collected on taxable value and doesn't use population but the agreement does use population in the calculation. There was a discussion about the approved budget using the same population that has been used the last three years as the information from the district was no received until the night of the budget review. Michael also referred to the minutes from July 19, 2021 as he specifically asked if the district was comfortable with the budget and Neal confirmed they were. It was discussed to look at the Joint Management Agreement and clarify the contributions before the next budget year. Neal moved to amend the 2021-2022 budget using the population for the city of 4516 and the district of 5423. Glenn seconded the motion. There was further discussion about the population and the valuation figures used to calculate the market value and levy rate. Glenn stated he would like to table to review it further for fairness to both entities. Michael moved to table this item until the January meeting. Kelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Bob voted yes, Kelly voted yes, Pam voted yes, Michael voted yes, Neal voted yes and Glenn voted yes. The motion passed and this item will be on the next agenda for January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Review and Consideration of Building Finance Proposals:** Neal presented building finance options for consideration. Option 1 was to split the cost of the building 50/50 with an estimated cost of \$1.5 to \$2 Million each. Option 2 was the district would purchase the building outright and lease back to the joint department for 20 annual lease payment of around \$284,000. Option 3 was the district would purchase the building entirely and the city would commit to spend a like amount on upcoming future equipment needs outside of the joint budget with no matching funds from the district. Neal added that Option 3 is what have been currently doing but in reverse with the district paying for the building and the city paying for equipment. There was a discussion and it was noted the company doing the planning has not worked with two entities to build on building. There was further discussion about the options, at the end of the lease in Option 2 the building would belong to the district. Michael stated he needs to look at figures before, Neal added he preferred Option 3

as both entities would have equity in the end. Glenn noted the station is being built for the future with growth in the community for both the city and the district. It was questioned how soon the city might have a decision, Michael noted the city will need several months to look at the numbers and legal and none of these options have even been discussed as a city. There was consideration about the timeframe and what triggers the need for the station now? Andrew noted he has quite a few trucks outside and the 12-hour paramedics are moving to Filer for a 24-hour car until a station is built. Andrew stated he follows needs not wants. It was concluded to have Andrew work up some numbers with the intern plan, station needs and future expenses including replacement trucks. No action was taken on the item.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS** – There were none.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting; Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.