

MINUTES

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

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer
Michael Higbee	Council President	Neal Gier	Fire District Chairman
Pam McClain	Council Member	Glenn Van Patten	Fire District Commissioner
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Bob Linderman	Fire District Commissioner
Kelly Peterson	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Karen Drown	Clerk		

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held telephonically.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes of January 20, 2020:** Sue moved to approve the minutes from January 20, 2020. Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Anticipated Shortfall in Revenues for 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget:** Elizabeth detailed information from revenue projections provided by the Association of Idaho Cities and a review of her financial statements. Currently she is estimated a reduction of \$100,000.00 in revenues for the remainder of this fiscal year. She explained she had met with all department heads to look at every budget within the city where that money could be saved if possible. She said most departments are looking at the special projects they have budgeted and if possible, put those on hold. She did note that some of those had already been done or items were ordered so those were not options to look at. She summarized by stating the projections are changing rapidly but she is watching it closely. Glenn asked about the property tax that have been billed. Elizabeth noted the amount that had been levied for remains the same but won't collect that amount currently so the tax collection amount potentially will decrease.

**Presentation of 10-year Strategic Plan:** Andrew noted he was presenting two options with his 10-year plan. The first one has everything to improve services which include additional staffing, new station plan, training grounds over 2 years and a new station in 2027-2028. The second option allows for some of the items but not all if revenues cannot be maintained such as additional staffing remained but a new station was not included in the plan. There was discussion of the services having St. Luke's responding from the Buhl station has provided such as a more advanced level of care closer but Andrew did note that is doesn't lessen his departments work. There was further discussion about the details of property and a new station and options that would work for training grounds. The group noted their appreciation for the work Andrew had put into both plans.

**Presentation of Investment Options for Fire Donation Fund:** Elizabeth noted the memo she had provided in the packet for the group to review with investment options. Sue moved to approve Fire Donation Funds in the option with Idaho Central Credit Union with a 12-month CD. Neal seconded the motion. There was discussion of the different options and pros and cons to each and the possibility to withdraw early without penalty. The general consensus was the 12-month would be better because of the unpredictability of the market currently. Elizabeth noted these funds are currently in a money market account at Farmers National Bank and some would need to remain to leave the account open. There was a vote on the motion and it failed. Sue moved to leave \$2500.00 in the Farmers Bank Money Market account and invest the remaining in the Idaho Central Credit Union 12-month CD. Neal seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. There was a vote on the motion with all voting yes. The motion passed.

**Update on III-A Insurance Plans:** Karen presented information that several other cities had provided with pros and cons of using III-A. She did note the question about if there could be two different policies, one with III-A for the fire department and the other with Blue Cross for other employees could occur and the answer was no it could not. Also, the only way to find out a price quote was to have every employee fill out an application and submit. III-A would then review those and then either accept us into the plan and provide premium figures or deny our group entirely. There was discussion about the information provided by the other cities and effort it would take to get application filled out during the current circumstances with the pandemic. Consensus was to hold off until closer to renewal time and not put something else on everyone's plate. There was no motion made.

**Clarification of Future Meeting Times:** Karen noted this item was on the agenda because it was pointed out that the Joint Management Agreement states the meetings will be held at 7:00 PM. She added that some time back a meeting was held at 6:30 PM and they had remained at that time. Sue moved to change the meeting time to 6:30 PM. Neal seconded the motion. There was a short discussion. There was a vote on the motion. Sue, Neal, Michael, Pam, Kelly, and Glenn voted yes; Bob voted no. The motion passed.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS** – There were none.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Glenn moved to adjourn the meeting; he noted his appreciation of the efforts of hard work to have the meeting during this time of uncertainty; Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.