

MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BUHL CITY COUNCIL AND THE BUHL RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
July 19, 2021

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Autumn Jones	Assistant Clerk/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	Mike Ruffing	Fire District Clerk
Elizabeth Barker	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 April 19, 2021. Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review and Consideration of 2021-2022 Joint Operations & Maintenance Fiscal Budget – Including additional staffing request and capital projects:** Autumn reviewed the numbers that provided for the budget based on the Joint Management Agreement requirements. Michael moved to approve the preliminary budget with a 2% raise to the base salary. Pam seconded the motion. There was discussion on the increase of some items and the reduction of others. Michael noted it is crazy to see O & M going down but salaries going up. Andrew explained there is not a contingency figured into this budget as there was last year. He added he is making O & M leaner and meaner and moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Some of the technical rescue equipment they are upgrading is going to battery operated models. There was a discussion about volunteer numbers, Andrew noted fire volunteers are doing well but EMS is looking at a number of retirements. He also explained our career staff would cover EMS with the addition of the new career staff. Neal presented information in regards to an email Karen had sent to Mike Ruffing trying to determine the population of the fire district as it is not something the official census tracks. Neal had figures from the county they felt were close to what the district should be. Michael asked if the district was comfortable with the budget. Neal stated they were, but would like to see quarterly actual financial statements. There was a roll call vote on the motion. Kelly voted yes, Sue voted yes, Pam voted yes, Michael voted yes, Neal voted yes, Bob voted yes. The motion passed.

**Review and Consideration of 2021-2022 Joint Fire Donation Fiscal Budget:** Andrew stated he is still waiting on compressor grant and is nursing the current unit along. Kelly moved to approve the preliminary budget for the fire donation fund. Bob seconded the motion. It was noted the new compressor could be moved to a new station if the time came. If the grant is not received the fund would be reduced to pay for the compressor. There was no further discussion. Kelly voted yes, Sue voted yes, Pam voted yes, Michael voted yes, Neal voted yes, Bob voted yes. The motion passed.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS –** There were none.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting; Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.