

MINUTES

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

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Karen Drown	Clerk
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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of New Station proposal and Evaluation of Feasibility study: Andrew detailed he has had the evaluation in his 10-year plan for several years. He noted the cost didn't seem to much for the amount of the cost of a new station. Neal discussed the option the district was looking at for a new station and a contract with the city for fire services. Glenn also detailed other points such as the district would have the employees and the district would charge the city of services. He noted the City of Hagerman does it with their district. There would be a negotiation each year for the contract. Council members stated they would like to see examples and specific plans and ideas and we don't want to end up with a "Filer", a shell of a building that cannot be used. Neal detailed other points such as it would be easier if one entity goes after grants for a new station and more feasible for one boss for Andrew to go to. Michael asked for examples of pros for the idea because his concern he was seeing was the city had taxation without representation is huge.

Mayor McCauley directed the group back to the topic on the agenda which was for the station evaluation and feasibility study that was included in Andrew's operating and maintenance budget. Andrew noted that \$40,000.00 was budgeted and he will get it for the best price he can.

Review and Consideration of 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget:

Operating Fund: Andrew pointed out a few items on his agenda with the salary and position changes and allow funds to pay on-call staff to cover shifts. The station evaluation item he wouldn't contact until approval to spend money was directed. There was a question regarding the health insurance increase and Karen noted the new rates are not received until mid-October so a 17% increase was in the budget but in the past, we have not seen that kind of increase. Andrew also noted he would like to add an incentive for a training officer for dedicated individual to carry out the task of setting up trainings and track items for the staff. Pam moved to approve the Joint Fire Operating Fund Budget for 2020-2021. Michael seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. There was a vote on the motion and all voted yes.

Capital Fund: Karen explained Elizabeth's recommendation to discontinue this fund if both entities will not be putting money into the fund. Neal moved to discontinue as of September 30, 2020. Bob seconded the motion. The fund balance would be split back at the percentage the money was put into the fund. There was a discussion about the funds that would go back to the city would be put back into the general fund. Michael noted this fund was setup in good faith so Andrew knew how to plan for future money for purchases. There was no further discussion and there was vote on the motion. Bob, Neal, Glenn, Sue, Kelly and Michael voted yes; Pam voted no. The motion passed to discontinue the capital fund as of September 30, 2020.

Pam moved to approve the Joint Fire Capital Budget for 2020-2021; which contained not revenues or expenditures. Glenn seconded the motion. There was no discussion and there was a vote on the motion. All voted yes and the motion passed.

Fire Donation: Andrew noted that \$60,000.00 was budgeted incase the grant wasn't successful for the compressor. It would only be spent if he doesn't get the grant. Pam moved to approve the Fire Donation Fund. Neal seconded the motion. There was no discussion and there was a vote on the motion. All voted yes and the motion passed.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – There were none.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Pam moved to adjourn the meeting; Kelly seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.