

October 11, 2016

The continued meeting of the Cuyuna City Council September 1 meeting was held at 7:00 pm in City Hall. Present were Mayor Brix and council members Z. Brix, Eisen, Stockard, and Zontelli. Mayor Brix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor stated the closed personnel meeting evaluating the performance of Police Chief Jesse Smith found no issues. Mayor noted the city council would be taking no action as none needed to be taken. Police Chief Jesse Smith is performing his job well.

City reviewed funding for the proposed purchase of a new fire truck pumper. Fire Chief Dirkes noted the department will pay for the entirety of the truck using funds provided from the Equipment Fund. The fund has a balance of \$207,000 and the difference of about \$60,000 would be paid from a donation from the Relief Association Charitable Gambling funds prior to delivery of the vehicle. The purchase would require a down payment of \$8,834, a partial payment when the chassis is delivered to the contracted vendor, and a final payment when the completed truck is delivered to Cuyuna. The truck would increase the carrying capacity of water by 1200 gallons. Also, the vehicle could carry foam to increase its firefighting capacity.

Council member Stockard stated the quarter million dollars was a lot of money. He asked how many fire fighters responded to the recent fire call. Chief Dirkes said 5 members responded. Stockard noted only 5 of 24 showed up, and while thanking them for the response, the purchase is still a large amount of money. He noted the area departments have mutual aid response agreements and could share equipment among the cities to better cover each other more effectively. He understands the funds are from the Relief Association Charitable Gambling donations.

Chief Dirkes told the council the present truck is a 1992 model and does need to be replaced. He felt this purpose was a very good use of the charitable gambling donations and does not cost the city tax payers any money.

Mayor Brix asked council member Stockard how he thought the charitable gambling donations should be spent. Stockard suggested the schools could be one area. Chief Dirkes stated the relief association donates to the schools, a number of area non-profit groups, and to the city for the park and other expenses. Mayor Brix asked why the relief association would continue to raise funds if some could not be used to improve the equipment.

The expense of the current sanitary sewer project was discussed and it was noted charitable funds could not be used for the project.

Council member Zontelli expressed he also felt the purchase is a lot of money and asked if all the expense would be from the donated funds. Chief Dirkes confirmed no tax payer dollars would be used for the purchase. Zontelli noted how many fire fighting vehicles from the local cities are in the 4th of July parade and how big of an investment that is for the area. He felt there was an oversupply of equipment. He shared there must be a better way to manage how many vehicles are needed to cover the service area.

Council member Eisen shared his insurance rates for his home are very reasonable given the city has a very good rating for the city fire department. His rates are a lot less for more home value than when

he lived in southern Minnesota. Council member Zontelli had checked with his insurance agent and his home insurance premium would not increase if covered by Crosby. Council member Z. Brix said the cost of insurance depends on where the home is located in comparison to the location of the fire station. For many Cuyuna residences, the Cuyuna fire station is the closest and allows for insurance discounts because of the good department rating.

Council member Stockard shared the Crosby Fire Chief provided him an estimate for Crosby to provide service coverage for Cuyuna. The estimate was \$900/year using the accepted Koep formula. Chief Dirkes noted that is because the Crosby Fire Department bills the home owner and their insurance company for the responses. Cuyuna does not charge for responses.

Council member Z. Brix shared the protocol for the department responding to a fire and at what point a mutual aid call is made given the type of fire event.

Council member Stockard restated the purchase was a lot of money and that he thinks the area departments could be working more together to reduce the duplication of equipment and would not need as many firefighters. Firefighting services could be more efficiently run.

Council member Zontelli asked the age of the equipment. Chief Dirkes said the current pumper to be replaced is a 1992 model. The current tanker is a 1995 model. The new pumper would give the department a 4,000 gallon capacity to fight a home fire.

Motion by Eisen to enter into the purchase agreement for the new pumper using funds from the charitable gambling donations and the present fire equipment fund. Second by Zontelli. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Eisen to adjourn. Second by Zontelli. Motion carried unanimously.

William F Bedard
Clerk

Lloyd Brix
Mayor.