

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, Special Meeting Town Council and Sheridan Rural Fire Board (Sheridan Senior Center 210 W. Crofoot)

Council Members in attendance were Curtis Green, Jan Bowey, Tammy Todd, and Diane Kaatz. Rural Fire Board Members in attendance were Del Bieroth, Max Moltich, Dan Durham, Bruce Peterson, and Jeff Gerth. Also in attendance were Mayor Robert Stump and Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse.

Guests: Craig Schroeder (Madison County Sheriff's Department), Duncan Hedges (Madison County Sheriff's Department), Joseph Brummel (DES), Rahn Abbott, Chris Noon, Cat McRae, CJ Bartolomei, Mike O'Neill, Dillan Haugland, Michael Douglas, Ben Sitter, Mike Zielinski, Adam Dulac, and Zachary Thompson

Mayor Stump called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: No comments

Moving Relocation/Plan to New Fire Hall at 3284 Highway 287: Del Bieroth the chairperson of the Sheridan Rural Fire Board started the meeting with comments that the new building for the fire department is moving along. At this point they are spending money that they are receiving via a loan. Everything is moving along, and they should be moving into the building mid-January.

Jan Bowey asked if they are going to need additional funding from the Town than already discussed. The rural fire board does not know what the loan expense is going to be yet and will not know if they will need additional funding from the Town until after the loan payment is calculated. Other areas of need are the structure truck for the Town. Jeff is in the process of looking for one. Other additional expenses will be discussed later on the agenda.

Proposed Interlocal agreement between Town of Sheridan and Rural Fire District #4 Fire Protection and Emergency Services: Del made a motion to accept the interlocal agreement. Jan asked if they want a second from the council or motions from both. Jan seconded the motion. Del added that we are not far off on the interlocal agreement and signing the document between the Rural Board and the Town of Sheridan. There are items in the agreement that need to be discussed tonight that are concerns of Sheridan and Rural Fire Department members. They had nine concerns as follows:

1. They would like to have in writing the responsibilities and duties of the fire chief.
2. Clean up language – want to make sure that they are able to use the water at the existing Town Hall if the fire hydrants freeze up and are not working.
3. There is a concern about the dollar amount that the Town will pay to the rural fire board for operation of the fire department, especially if the Town continues to grow with subdivisions.
4. Concern about having a five-year contract and being locked-in to an agreement that was not working out for either party. They would rather have a one year so they can work through any issues sooner than later.
5. ISO (Insurance Service Office Inc) inspection. ISO determines the protection class (PC) rating for property insurance. We have to make sure we have all of the equipment ISO requires in order to keep the Town's current protection class.
6. There is a need for an inventory of what the city owns, rural owns, and what is owned jointly. All the equipment will be out at the new building, but the Town will maintain ownership. The Cascade system is one item that is owned jointly.
7. The fire department is worried about the term negligence in the contract.
8. Maintenance of the fire hydrants. Who takes care of the fire hydrants? Needs to be spelled out in the contract.

9. Who will maintain ownership of the Town's property? Who will own the property currently owned by the Town, if the contract is terminated after a year? Bob asked for clarification, as the question is the same as item 6. Who owns what?

Del also commented that the Town would like representation at the board meeting. The board is an elected representative so they cannot just add a person to the board. If a council member wants to attend, he is ok with that. Del will add them to his email. Bob commented that it has been corrected in the contract based on Del and Bob's conversation about elected positions. The Town will decide at their next meeting who will be representing the Town at those meetings.

Bob stated that he did not feel that we were ready to vote on anything with the list of items that are of concern. Discussion occurred regarding the issues that the fire department has with the contract. The consensus is that the areas of concern could be fixed with just additional wording, for example the five-year contract could stay a five-year contract with an annual review being completed by a certain date. Inventory can be split via percentage. Fire hydrants are owned by the Town and will continue to be the Town's responsibility for maintenance.

The agreement is between the Rural Fire Department Board and the Town of Sheridan. The purpose is to have an agreement for both entities with the Rural Fire Board to oversee the fire department as a whole.

Del said it would be easy for them to come up with language, and he will work with Bob on the revisions.

Del made a motion to table this contract for a January meeting to get this hammered out and approved. Discussion occurred about date and time. Jan seconded Del's motion. No further discussion. Mayor Stump called a vote for the Town Council and the Rural Fire Board Jan -yes, Diane-yes, Curtis-yes, Tammy-yes, Del-yes, Bruce-yes, Max-yes, Jeff-yes, and Dan-yes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

ATTEST:

Signature on File in original minute book

Kristi Millhouse, Clerk/Treasurer

Signature on file in original minute book

Robert Stump, Mayor