

Town Council Meeting August 6, 2024, Town Hall

Attendees: Curtis Green, Jan Bowey, Diane Kaatz, Mayor Pro Tem Tammy Todd, and Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Meacham.

Guests: Anne Wentz, Bob Stump, and Dan Allhands.

Rural Fire District Attendees: Fred Morgenthaler, Mike Zielinski, Jeff Gerth, Rhan Abbott, Max Moltich, and Del Bieroth

Call to order: Called to order at 6pm

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Public Comment not on the Agenda: There was none.

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New Business:

Rural Fire: Annexation and Interlocal Agreement: A rough draft agreement was presented to the council; the agreement came from Catherine Dinwiddle who is the attorney working with Belgrade on their annexation. Tonight's primary purpose is to draft a contract for fire coverage with Rural Fire Dept. Section 7-1-411(4) MCA needs to be in the contract concerning third class cities. The proposed contract would provide a more economical and efficient means of providing fire services with the perspective services. The service will be the same as previously.

The Recitals is standard and doesn't seem to be a need for change right now.

Article I: A 5-year contract is recommended. A 5-year contract is agreed upon with a termination clause.

Article II \$25,000 is what the town is looking at in the budget but has not been approved yet. Rural Fire will send out an invoice quarterly to the town. More discussion to come concerning a yearly increase.

Article III: The council shall appoint a representative to participate in rural fire meetings and report back to the council. Preferably a council member and included in the meetings. Elections within the rural fire dept are held every January. Change of wording to appoint a member who will participate and will provide advisory recommendations for the election of the fire chief was questioned. The decision was to appoint a representative to participate in rural fire meetings and report back to the council.

Article IV: Personnel are all volunteers and workers' compensation were discussed concerning who pays for it. Amended the funding to add responsibility for paying workers' compensation to the contract.

Article V: Rural will continue carrying property liability insurance. It was questioned if the town can transfer over the brush truck to rural fire without going to auction. Discussion concerning personal liability coverage and if the fire fighters have it. Personal liability coverage would be a benefit for volunteers. Possibly look into it with MMIA.

Article VI: Transfer of brush truck before contract is signed. A value may need to be done as a transaction. Discussion went around about what to do with the brush truck. The council decided to keep it the way it is right now. Change training center to fire station. Remove section 4 it is discussed within section 3. Section 7 would need to be revised.

Article VII: No changes needed.

Article VIII: It is a standard agreement, no changes necessary at this time other than the county from Stillwater to Madison County.

Work on draft copy send to rural fire, then get suggestions from the rural fire dept before going to the town attorney. Diane moved for the town to use the base interlocal agreement provided by Catherine to put together a draft agreement with changes discussed and then present to rural fire for their review and negotiate as necessary. Jan seconded. Curtis abstain, Jan aye, Diane aye, and Tammy aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Jan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diane. All in favor. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:37PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Meacham