



Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, October 14, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Aldermen Magley, Bormann, Angell, and Lee. Also attending were Mayor Grenke, Lynn Behrns, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Patt Olsen, and James Smith.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Citizens

No comments.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch presented a report of September activities of the Fire Department. Rusch said that the department was starting to order a larger portion of the supplies and equipment upgrades contained in the budget.

The fire truck with a suspicious transmission has been examined and found to be okay for operations for the foreseeable future. There was no cost for the checkup.

Police Department

Police Chief Dudgeon was delayed for a police call. His activity report for September had been included in the agenda packet. Committee members had no questions.

Emergency Management

Behrns reported that he been called by the new Boone County Emergency Management Office about the possibility of Boone taking over the warning sirens in Centralia. All of the other sirens in Boone County have one control point. Behrns discussed the possibility with Lieutenant Bias and Mark Mustain. This seems to be a good deal for all taxpayer. If the County assumes responsibility, they could tone out the sirens for an area-wide emergency. However, Centralia would want to retain the ability to tone out the local sirens for our own use. EMS has no problems with this. In fact, the County might look at adding equipment in Centralia so that it could function as a backup point for triggering the Boone County sirens in instances where the County dispatch was out of service. The present siren equipment in Centralia is new or in good shape. In the longer term, Boone County would be responsible for repair or replacement of sirens in Centralia, paid by the new 3/8 cent 911/EMS sales tax. This will yield a savings in future Centralia budgets.

Discussions can continue after the County starts its own budget formulations

Protective Inspection

Behrns said he had issued three permits for new, single family residences; bring the total to 20 for the year. He also noted that work had finally begun on the demolition of the house at 535 S. Allen St.

Economic Development



No formal report. The minutes from the last CREDI meeting were submitted. Wilkins said that CREDI is in the process of hiring a part-time director. They hope to have one in place to announce at a membership social to take place in early November.

Park Department

The Park Board minutes for the September meeting were in the Committee agenda packet.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No report.

Tree Board

No report.

Library Board

Patt Olsen present minutes from the Board's last meeting, a future agenda, and district audit results. She announced the Library's tentative decision to go to the voters again, seeking a raise in the personal property tax levy for operations. The library has been dipping into accumulated reserves for several years. Olsen distributed a fact sheet which shows the yearly and monthly increases in taxes for houses at several valuation levels. Olsen also reported that a recent bequest is making it possible for the Library building to be reorganized and partially remodeled. The object for this is to enable a segregation of younger children, so that they do not bother other patrons and are not bothered by older students.

Finance

Financial statements for September were in the agenda packet. Committee had no questions.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250. They had no immediate questions

Other

Chief Dudgeon arrived. He mentioned that one of his part-time patrolmen had been promoted at his full-time job and would be less available for shift work. Dudgeon has a candidate for a new part-time officer to take up the slack. The man will be proposed for appointment by the Mayor at the regular Board meeting.

Dudgeon referred to a request from a resident on Remington Drive that the City take additional efforts to slow traffic on that street. Dudgeon said there was no place to hide an officer with a radar gun. Behrns has already added a sign to remind drivers of the standard 25-mph speed limit. Behrns said that he did not believe that speeders would be inclined to drive slower if the speed limit were reduced. Behrns was surprised that the narrow drive lanes did not naturally slow traffic. The density of duplexes and on-street parking do not leave wide lanes most of the time. Behrns feels that speed bumps are inappropriate and a liability. Several aldermen had already driven the road. Committee engaged in a short discussion, but took no action at that time.

As May Arise

Magley asked if there was any news from Clifford de la Rosa concerning the Narraganset Building. Behrns said "no". Wilkins said it was about time for aldermen to pay de la Rosa another visit.



The Committee then adjourned at about 7:40 p.m.

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