

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, March 10, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Simons, Bormann, and Lee. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, James Smith and several Centralia High School students and their sponsor.

Comments from Citizens

No comments.

Student Presentation Concerning Agriculture Issues

Six students, members of the Future Farmers of America, made a presentation to the Board. This is one of several practice sessions wherein they display research and speaking skills as part of a national competition. In this instance, they presented possible testimony before the Public Service Commission on the topic of the Grain Belt Express—a proposed direct current electric transmission line running from Kansas wind farms across northern Missouri to customers on the east coast. Two students spoke in favor of the line, two spoke against it. One student was a moderator and one student acted as a PSC commissioner. The presentation did not convey a final answer on the issue. The students concluded their presentation with a question and answer time with the aldermen and audience.

City Prosecutor

No report.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon presented a Police Department activity report for February.

Dudgeon said that Alderman Wilkins has spent more time researching replacement of the Police Department file server. Wilkins is confident that the City will be able to buy a good, pre-owned server from Dell and that the present equipment will last until the start of the new fiscal year. Staff is awaiting a firm quote.

Dudgeon also reported that he has two, low-mileage 2011 Crown Victoria patrol cars reserved at the Highway Patrol. He will request that they be purchased as soon as the budget is adopted and the new fiscal year starts. He told Smith that they were to replace existing vehicles, not add to the fleet. He said that next year will likely be the last time that Crown Victoria's will be sold by the State.

Both purchases will be on the next Board agenda, with implementation dates after April 1.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Rusch, presented a report of February department activities.

Chief Rodgers said that he and Behrns were reviewing the City Code chapters concerning Fire and Fireworks. They will probably not be recommending many changes. However, Rodgers said he would like to suggest that the honorarium paid to firefighters be raised from \$10 per fire or meeting to \$12. The last time the rate was increased was in the nineties. [After the meeting, Behrns determined the date to be 1993.] Behrns said that he had allowed for such a

possibility in the budget. The recent spate of medical calls makes determining an estimated cost somewhat difficult. The aldermen had no objection to considering the raise as part of the City Code review.

Rodgers thanked the Electric Department for replacing and updating the light fixtures in the bay of the main fire station. He said it was a great improvement.

Emergency Management

Behrns had nothing to report.

Protective Inspection

Behrns report that he had copies of all books in the 2011/2012 International Building Code Set. He has advertized that they are available for inspection. After ninety days, the City can hold a public hearing and probably adopt them soon after Boone County has enacted them.

Responding to a question from Magley, Wilkins said that the warmer weather means that the City can renew efforts to correct nuisance and dangerous structures—including the Narraganset Building.

Economic Development

Mike Rodgers was ill, but the Committee agenda packet contained the minutes of the last CREDI meeting.

Behrns mentioned that the agenda for the regular Board meeting will contain ordinances to allow approval of service contracts with CREDI and with the Friends of the Centralia Battlefield. The Chamber of Commerce is in the second year of a two-year contract. The CREDI contract will be for \$6,000 (the same as the Chamber) and for one year, to put it on the same cycle as the Chamber. The budget for the Friends contract is set to allow for a one-time \$20,000 contract, as requested.

Park Department

The Park Board agendas and minutes for past meetings were in the Committee agenda packet. They will meet next on March 12.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

No report.

Tree Board

No report.

Library Board

Minutes and agendas for the Library Board were included in the agenda packet.

Mayor Grenke reported that he had attended the Library's open house to display the new Children's Reading Area. He was very impressed and felt it showed good stewardship of a citizen's donation. He said he hoped that would help with the April election and the proposed tax increase for operations.

Finance

Financial statements for February were in the agenda packet. Committee had no questions. Behrns said that payments for state-assessed railroads and utilities were off by about \$13,000. Since the City has not been told of any protest of taxes, Behrns assumes that one of the payments was too late for the County Treasurer's distribution. This will affect the end of year balance, but the money should show up on April or May.

Bills over \$1,250

Committee received a preliminary list of bills over \$1,250; there were no questions.

Other

Behrns referred to a letter from City Clerk Heather Lockett. Only one bid for banking services had been received: that of Boone County National Bank. The other local banks declined to submitted bids. The terms were almost identical to the present agreement, with a very slight increase in per-item handling fees. There may be an ordinance for the main contract on the next Board agenda, but perhaps it will be delayed until the April regular meeting, so that the supplemental ordinances can be written to designated new signatories, if necessary, after the elections.

As May Arise

Committee embers were reminded of the meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday to review applications for the city administrator position. We have now reviewed 19 applications.

A dissolved oxygen meter no longer functions; and the vender says it is five-years obsolete and, thus, irreparable. There is only one vender for this product and the meter is required for regular testing and reporting to the Department of Natural Resources. Magley asked if this was a machine which could be rented or leased. Behrns said that the City could probably borrow one for a day from another city, but otherwise that was probably not a mid- or long-term option.

At about \$1,600, the price was over \$1,250 threshold, but Behrns has told the Water Department to order a replacement quickly and was informing the Aldermen as soon as practical..

Committee adjourned about 7:44 p.m.