

Public Safety Committee Meeting May 1, 2012

The **Public Safety Committee** met Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 12:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Committee Chairperson John Uden and Committee Members Dwayne Andrews, Sue Galbraith and Mark Ahner. Also present were Mayor Chris Grenz, Miles City Police Captain Mark Reddick, Fire Chief Dale Berg and Committee Recorder Connie Watts.

1. Review Proposed False Alarm Ordinance from Police Department

Chairperson Uden stated he remembered an ordinance from years ago where businesses were assessed a cost on false alarms, but he doesn't know if the ordinance is still in effect. The ordinance proposed today by the Police Department is modeled after the Billings ordinance.

The alarms being referred to are those at a business which, when triggered after hours, usually automatically contact the alarm company, which then contacts dispatch and the manager/owner of the business. The manager then allows the PD to respond instead of checking it out him/herself.

The Committee felt that some education and communication needs to be done with the businesses having the most frequent false alarms and see if that doesn't help the situation.

** Committee Chair Uden moved that action on the false alarm ordinance be tabled for one month, allowing the police department to make contact with the alarm companies and business managements to try to rectify the problem. If no progress is made, then the ordinance can come back to this Committee. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Galbraith and, on roll call vote, passed unanimously, 4-0.

Captain Reddick was asked to keep track of all false alarms throughout this next month.

2. Review Proposed Mutual Aid Agreement from Fire Department

Chairperson Uden opened the meeting up for discussion.

Committee member Ahner stated we are currently subject to a state mutual aid agreement. The reason we are considering a local agreement is because the response time would be much faster. Under the State agreement, the Mayor and the County Commissioners have to make the decision to respond to an aid request. Under a local agreement, a list would be made available to both the City and County of people to call to request aid.

He noted that under “reimbursement”, the responding entity could be reimbursed after the second hour for time and/or equipment.

Fire Chief Berg has researched many local mutual aid agreements across the state. He said they are already working under the two-hour parameter. Most structure fires can be taken care of or at least taken to the point where the other entity would be able to take over in the two hours. As far as brush or wild land fires, after the initial response, an assessment is able to be made as far as how much additional help is needed within the two-hour period. On county fires, not only is the DNRC available, but BLM is also available for those type of fires, and they have more equipment and trained personnel for that type of fire, also. MCFR would probably not be needed for much longer than the initial two hours anyway.

Chief Berg said that the City’s ISO rating (Insurance Service Office) could be improved if this agreement is signed before the ISO conducts its evaluation in late summer or early fall. He also said the City and rural fire departments are working together better now than they have for the last twenty years.

** Committee Member Ahner moved to amend the draft agreement as written by Attorney Huss as follows:

P. 3 of 5, under “B.Command at the Scene” – 1. Replace “*The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*” with “**The National Incident Management System (NIMS)**” shall be utilized.

Same page, under “Reimbursement”, following the first sentence under A. 1.: “**Beyond the second hour to a response the requesting party is obligated to reimburse the responding party for all financial obligations incurred that are directly related to an incident**”

2. ...of the same paragraph A: “The responding party may elect not to be reimbursed **for any or specific incurred expenses.**”

V., B. “Insurance and Damages”, 1. “**The responding party shall remain responsible...for the initial two hours of response to an incident.**”

The draft, as amended, shall then be forwarded to the County Commissioners and County fire warden for their review recommendations.

Committee member Dwayne Andrews seconded the motion and, on roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

3. Adjournment

*** Having no more business to come before the Committee, Committee Member Galbraith moved to adjourn, seconded by Committee Member Ahner and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted:

Public Safety Committee Chairperson:

Connie L. Watts, Recorder

Chairperson John Uden