

Public Safety Committee Meeting July 5, 2016

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Committee Members John Uden, Kathy Wilcox, Jeff Erlenbusch, and Ken Gardner. Also present were Police Chief Doug Colombik, Fire Captain Mike Miller, Fire Chief Gary Warren, Program Administrator/Historic Preservation/Grant Writer Connie Muggli, Senior Patrol Officer Denise Bontrager and Committee Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Acting Chairperson Ken Gardner called the meeting to order. Chairman John Uden was absent when the meeting convened, but arrived later.

1. Request of Citizens

None

2. Committee Member Comments

None.

3. Review and consider joint request of Fire Dept. and Police Dept. for use of City Property for use as a Police/Fire Training facility.

Committee Member Ken Gardner asked for discussion. Committee Member Wilcox asked for the price of the facility. Fire Captain Miller state that there were currently no bids for constructing the actual facility, but has been working on finding land to be allocated by the City. Once they have the land allocated then the size of the facility can be determined. This project is not looking to the City for funding, but has been working with Senator Tester's to identify funds through Rural Economic Development. Mid-Rivers grant writer, Grant Writer Connie Muggli and Firefighter Sarah Lewin in addition with some MDU Grants for utilities are all being utilized to locate funding for the construction project. Captain Miller hopes that additional funding may also be obtained by working in conjunction with the college and the county

Captain Miller met with Public Utilities Director Kelm regarding possible sites. Sites were considered near the Water Treatment Plant building but building prohibited at some of these property sites as they are in the flood way or flood plain; however, the land that was formerly used as the lagoon settling ponds was identified, this land has a dike already in place and is neither in the flood way or flood plain. Construction would be allowed on this site. This land would also provide easy access for other communities in Eastern Montana wishing to use the training facility. There are currently no commitments by the City to lease out this land. The land is approximately 41 acres and would be provide adequate room for a building with three classrooms and a large paved area for driving practice.

Captain Miller stated that this is a joint project between the Fire Department, Police Department and the Custer County Sheriff Department.

Grant Writer Muggli asked what consideration had been given regarding fees for other communities to use the facility. Captain Miller stated that this subject would be looked into

further as the project continued in its development since currently since the project was in the preliminary stage. However, the fire department has instructors that would be willing to provide training. Other facilities in the State charge approximately \$1,500 for weekend training plus the City would benefit by providing training on site to the local department. The facility would have three classrooms, which would provide the potential for all three classrooms be used simultaneously by the Police Department or other organizations. He also stated that Rural Economic Development is very interested in the project due to the economic impact it provides to the community.

Officer Bontrager commented she had been in contact with Montana Law Enforcement Academy and they would be interested in coming to Miles City to provide training for this area of Montana. The use of the facility would be of economic benefit to the community by bringing in outlying communities to Miles City to use the training facility. Also the facility would aid in the decrease of liability to the community while training new officers. They would be trained at the facility instead of alarming citizens while training police officers on the streets, when staging stops using training "blue" pistols.

Committee Member Uden asked what the savings would be to the City. Captain Miller said it would be considerable in regards to liability, just from properly training firefighters to drive trucks and the opportunity to practice using live fire. There would also be a savings in travel costs. There is also the potential of providing fee based training to other communities. Officer Bontrager stated the savings for the police department would be much the same, decrease in liability, the ability to provide training to other communities, the economic impact to the community, and the ability to retain employees.

Committee Member Uden commented on the possibilities of other agencies using the facility, such as the FBI, Pine Hills, etc. Officer Bontrager thought the potential would be wide open for other agencies using the facility, including the BIA.


***Committee Member Wilcox moved to approve this stage of the planning process for a joint facility for Fire Department and Police Department for the use of city property presented and recommend to the full council on July 12; seconded by Committee Member Erlenbusch. Upon roll call vote the motion **passed** unanimously*

4. Adjournment

*** Committee Member Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Gardner and **passed** unanimously, 4-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Ken Gardner, Acting Chairperson


Linda Wilkins, Recorder