

**Public Safety Committee Meeting
March 2, 2021**

The Public Safety Committee met Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 6:00 pm via live attendance and Zoom Conferencing in the City Hall Conference Room, 17 S. 8th. Present were Committee Members Elizabeth Patten, Kathy Wilcox and Austin Lott. Excused was: Committee Member Ken Gardner. Also present were: Police Chief Doug Colombik, Police Captain Dan Baker, Mayor John Hollowell, Fire Captain Eddy Kanduch, Fire Captain Jake Richards, Fire Chief Branden Stevens, Dispatch Supervisor Lyne Anderson, AC/CE Officer Mark Winkley, City Building Inspector Russell Murphy, and HR Officer/Recorder Linda Wilkins.

Chairperson Patten called the meeting to order. Item 7 was moved to Item 4

1. Request of Citizens for Public Comment

None.

2. Staff Comments

Chief Stevens reported that a firefighter will out for 30-days for a medical issue. The front apron going into the black top of the street requires repairs, there is a drop off between the apron and the street. The jarring of this drop off caused a hose to become disengaged from the vehicle when leaving the station. The flapping hose may have resulted in injury while the vehicle was enroute to the incident, fortunately this did not happen. Chief Stevens will contact Public Works Director Gray to arrange having the drop off repaired. Call volume is up in the department.

3. Committee Member Comments.

None

4. Discussion of cost for Animal Impound Services.

Committee Member Lott and Officer Winkley have been working on the current charges for animal impound services. According to current MCA the City is not charging enough for spaying and neutering. They have been unsuccessful at obtaining current spay / neuter charges from Miles City Veterinary Service; and East Main Veterinary Service will probably not want to continue with the services that they have been providing to the City. The Custer County Fund for Animals is still willing to transport animals to Billings on a temporary basis. Officer Winkley reported that from his research boarding and impound fees have not been raised for a long period of time and these fees need to be raised. Committee Member Lott stated Billings was charging fees of approximately \$10-\$15 boarding, \$25-\$35 impound, and \$100-\$200 adoption fee.

***Committee Member Lott moved to recommend \$15 boarding fee, \$30 impoundment fee and the adoption fee at the lowest spay or neuter charge determined annually, seconded by Committee Member Wilcox and passed unanimously 3-0.*

The current ordinance allows for transport to local veterinary services, there was discussion on changing “local” so that animals may be transported to other facilities outside of Miles City.

***Committee Member Wilcox moved to recommend to the nearest veterinary facility accepting animals, seconded by Committee Member Lott and passed unanimously 3-0.*

5. Discussion and Recommendation regarding RFQ for the Police Department.

Chairperson Patten stated that there are two contractors interested in bidding on the Woolhouse project. They are B & B Builders out of Sidney and Hardy Construction out of Billings. B & B Builders have done projects with SDI Architect's and Hardy just completed the Stockman Bank project on Main, she spoke with individuals involved with either contractor and all have been satisfied with their performance. Both contractors will be interviewed and scored on March 23.

6. Discussion of MCFR Document

Portions of Chief Stevens' report to the Finance Committee on February 12th were discussed along with the current structure issues at the Fire Department. Inspector Murphy stated he had pulled down sheetrock and OSB board to see if the building was a pole barn construction, it is not, but is a stick frame construction similar to modern construction. The insulation is not in good shape, he found charcoal black in the insulation. He called the International Code Council (ICC), if the building renovations are 50% or more, the entire building will need to be renovated. The framing of the living quarters is not correct by today's standards, the generator on the side of the building, the concrete apron and electrical require repair. Several options were discussed for either new construction or repairs; including renovation, looking at the PAR that had been developed and scaling it down, having a satellite station at the Woolhouse and purchasing the lot that Dr. Williams has for sale for new construction. Inspector Murphy has pictures of his findings in the current fire hall and will distribute copies to all committee members. Committee Member Lott expressed it was important to get the community involved in the decision-making process for the Fire Department. Chief Stevens stated that there are options for temporary places to store equipment, but logistics would have to be worked on should this be required for either renovation or construction. He also expressed that he thought it would be important for a Public Safety mil levy to be considered by Council to cover the costs of a new station. He stated that the City is running out of time and he is concerned about the protection of the citizens, but knew there were no easy answers. Committee Members Wilcox and Lott stated they would work with Chief Stevens on looking at the PAR, reviewing costs and changes. Committee Member Lott also said he would contact Realtor Dawn Bolejack about Dr. Williams vacant lot. This information would help feed the conversation, and a working group could be formed to work toward specifics.

The COVID reimbursement was discussed from the Cycle 2 of funding in the amount of \$151,349.75. The request was reviewed and all items will be funded except lines 3 and 12 for wildland equipment. A budget amendment will need to be prepared and will be considered and a Public Safety Meeting scheduled at 4:15 p.m. March 5, 2021.

7. Discussion and Recommendation of Dispatch Staffing needs to Finance Committee.

Supervisor Anderson informed the committee Prairie County had contacted her regarding the addition of their 911 service to Southeastern Montana Dispatch. This will impact the need for staffing in the dispatch center; however, there will be 911 funding of approximately \$98,000 to provide this service. There is a 911 Board meeting on March 17, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in Custer County EOC meeting room. This subject will be revisited at a future committee meeting.

8. Adjournment

***Committee Member Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Lott and passed unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.