

CITY OF ELKHORN
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Common Council Chambers, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

September 6, 2016

Committee of the Whole was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Reynolds followed by roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Howie Reynolds, Aldermen Hoss Rehberg, Michael Kluck, Cathy Bensaid, Bruce Lechner
(Absent: Scott McClory, Tom Myrin)

Also present: Administrator Sam Tapson, Finance Director James Heilman, City Clerk Cairie Virrueta, Fire Chief Rod Smith, Police Chief Joel Christensen, Kellen Olshefski

Discussion Regarding Fire/EMS Staffing Plan Utilize

Administrator Tapson said the City acknowledges that Fire/EMS are critical services, however the problem is expense allocation. Staffing is needed due to staffing shortages. Currently, it is voluntary, paid, on call. A three tiered plan is a step towards helping to resolve the shortage. The first tier involves adding four EMT/Firefighter personnel (5 days, 12 hours); the second tier adds four EMT/Firefighter personnel (7 days, 12 hours) and the third tier adds four EMT/Firefighter (7 days, 24 hours). A referendum wouldn't be able to take place until November of 2018. Getting the message out to the public regarding this public safety issue would be challenging. The state says it has to go to referendum to put it on the tax role. Raising patient fees may not generate income. The City currently collects 50% of fees, as provided by Paratech.

Administrator Tapson pointed out the collection rate is actually 83%. The City has the ability to fund the first tier today, but the next tiers raise sustainability concerns. Alderman Rehberg asked if the towns could contribute more; it is believed they won't and aren't able to pay more. The current town percentage is based on the percentage of calls. Alderman Rehberg recommended that the towns provide volunteers; Fire Chief Smith said it can be looked into but may affect response times. Alderman Rehberg asked if the response times have been affected; Fire Chief said it has gone from 5 to 7 minutes. Alderman Bensaid asked how the City has tried to get volunteers; on Facebook and in the paper. The City pays for EMS schooling and the State pays for Fire training. Administrator Tapson said this needs to be considered while going through the 2017 budget and the Council needs to decide when they want to implement the staffing plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Rehberg/Lechner) to adjourn at 5:29 p.m.

Cairie L. Virrueta
City Clerk

Approved 9/19/16