

**CITY OF ELKHORN**  
**Public Safety Committee Minutes**  
**First Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 9 S. Broad St., Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

March 2, 2015

Public Safety Committee was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Alderman McClory followed by roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Aldermen Scott McClory, Gregory Huss, Tom Myrin

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

**DISCUSSION ON FIRE AND EMS STAFFING**

Fire Chief Smith said the new full-time EMS person has been working well, however he would like to see two full-time EMS persons. He has seen a steady decline in responses to fire calls, the average response was 15 and are now 9-10 people responding. He believes it is due to their employers not allowing them to leave work. He said to have a full-time staff would be best. Administrator Tapson said the City can't afford full staff and it would have to be incrementalized. He said that paid on premise works in Lake Geneva, with 24 on and 48 off. He said they could look to combining and cross training Fire and EMS. Tapson said there was no easy answer on how to proceed. Fire Chief Smith said he does over 1,000 fire inspections a year and could use assistance with that; and education and risk prevention needs addressing. If the City changes then the other municipalities would be give a one year notice of the change and costs. Finance Director Heilman said other municipalities could be charged based on property values; however, it could be a burden to keep up with the values. Currently it is based on a five year average of calls. The other municipalities are aware that the City is looking at options. Mayor Olson said a decision needs to be made on what to do. Administrator Tapson said Delavan is also struggling on what to do and the City was approached to join a task force with them. The committee discussed regionalizing fire services and using paid on premise firefighters for other City services when not performing fire related duties. Fire Chief Smith said they could also do inspections, prevention and station maintenance. The committee will continue to discuss options and ideas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (Huss/Myrin) to adjourn at 4:52 p.m.

Cairie L. Virrueta  
City Clerk