

Proceedings of the Public Safety Committee January 11, 2012

Members Present: Councilor Mick MacKenzie
Councilor Warren Bender
Councilor Dan Olson
Councilor Denise McDonald

Others Present: Police Chief Chuck LaGesse
SPD Sgt. Mark McGillis
Councilor Mike Herrick

Fire Chief Jim Rigstad

Shelly Nelson, Daily Telegram

Councilor MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and noted that roll call had been taken by sign up.

Approval of Public Safety meeting minutes of December 14, 2011.

Motion by Councilor Bender, seconded by Councilor Olson and carried to approve Public Safety meeting minutes from December 14, 2011.

Matters to be considered

New Business

1. Referred from December 20, 2011 City Council meeting: Fire Chief Rigstad is recommending to award the purchase of a Pump truck to Pomasl Fire Equipment of Antigo, WI for \$382,520 with allocated 2012 CIP funds.

There was some discussion about the purchase price being more than the allocated funds in CIP. Chief Rigstad said that there will be a hearing protection system for fire fighters installed in the truck, hence the additional cost. Also push buttons will be installed so that the fire fighters can safely broadcast on the radio while driving.

Chief Rigstad also said this truck will be kept as a reserve unit. Minimal repairs that are needed will be done in-house.

There was some discussion on the length of time fire trucks last in the fleet, and response time to certain areas of the city. Chief Rigstad said that currently the Fire Department has five pumper trucks.

Motion by Councilor Olson, seconded by Councilor Bender and carried to approve to award the purchase of Fire Department pump truck to Pomasl Fire Equipment.

Old Business

1. Held in committee from the December 14 meeting, Extend time to pay non-moving violation citations (parking tickets) from 7 days to 28 days. City Code Section 112-251

Sgt. McGillis explained that he has spoken with Citation Management and their process will be more timely in the future. A revised ordinance was passed out to committee members, showing that the previous seven working days to pay a parking violation has been changed to 21 calendar days.

Motion by Councilor Olson, seconded by Councilor Bender and carried to approve the City Code Section 112-251 ordinance changes, including extending the time to pay a parking violation to 21 calendar days.

Standing Agenda Items

1. Fire Department Update

Chief Rigstad told the committee members that there were 38 residential fires, 48 total structure fires, and 107 total fires for 2011. There were 2909 total runs for 2011. EMT refresher training is ongoing right now, so firefighters can renew their state licenses. Chief Rigstad noted that there have been many firefighters off in recent months on disability leave, and/or on light duty, so the overtime budget is suffering.

Contract negotiations- Both the Police Department and the Fire Department unions have filed for mediation.

Motion by Councilor Bender, seconded by Councilor Olson and carried to receive and file the Fire Department update.

2. Police Department Update

Chief LaGesse said the police department has also had several officers injured, or have had surgery in recent months. There have been shortages, and some reductions have been made to minimums on shifts, to try to reduce overtime. Light duty officers have been taking calls from the station, and handling property/evidence disposal, which has been very helpful as the property room is becoming crowded. The Law Enforcement Management conference is this week, and Chief LaGesse said all supervisors are attending as time allows. Chief

LaGesse said the department is looking at contracting with a company called Lexipol. They are a company that specializes in writing/rewriting policies for law enforcement agencies. Their company researches laws, decisions, and they write or rewrite policies, that would meld with our current policies. They would also review our policies regularly so they stay updated. Chief LaGesse also said there are training aspects involved with their system as well. He said this would be a valuable tool for the department.

Citizens' academy applications will be being taken in February for the next class, and we will hold our annual Awards ceremony next week.

There was a discussion on the **Community Service Officer's duties**, and could she be dedicated to animal control? Chief LaGesse told the committee that part of her duties include property/evidence, and if she was needed for an animal issue when it was her property day, she could be relieved from Property duties to take care of that issue.

Motion by Councilor Olson, seconded by Councilor Bender and carried to receive and file the Police Department update.

Motion by Councilor Bender, seconded by Councilor Olson and carried to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting at 5:35 p.m.