

7:00 pm

February 16, 2016

**SPECIAL MEETING
597TH MEETING OF THE
HORSESHOE BEND CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order with Councilpersons Cooper, Green, and Riley present. Also present, City Clerk Tracy Wright, and Attorney Anthony Pantera.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Cooper **moved** to approve the agenda. Councilman Riley **seconded**. All ayes.
Motion carried.

New Business:

EMS:

In attendance-

Justin Heilman

Peggy Goff

Michele Brothers

Rindy Quijas

Nicole Osorio

Sandy Fenton

Tammy (Tamara) Morganroth

Carter Duke

Martye White

Tammy Sereduk

Tony Pantera, City Attorney: The EMT's introduce themselves and Tony informed them that the meeting is being audio recorded for the record. There are two items that the City would like input on from everyone on the department which are the stipend request and the EMS Policy Manual. Tony discussed with everyone the organizational flow of the department starting with the City as Council and Mayor followed by the Director, Martye White, and then the EMTs. The director has the authority to delegate duties.

A reoccurring question is the stipend request. Tony hands out a memorandum he has prepared regarding concerns with granting the request. Tony makes it clear that the City has never turned down equipment or training for the department, but that the requested stipend amount would cause issues for the City under the Fair Labor Act. The question to everyone is if the department wants to remain under volunteer status or move to an employee status. Tony reads from the memorandum that a volunteer per the Fair Labor Act is "the individual receives no compensation or is paid expenses, reasonable benefit, or a nominal fee to perform the services for which the individual volunteered; and such services are not the same type of services which the individual is employed to perform for such public agency." The City provides \$20.00 per run which is

considered a reasonable fee for compensation. The main problem is enough staff on the department to provide service. The City wants to figure out how to generate more volunteers as well as compensate current volunteers. Tony asks again if the department would like to be employees or volunteers. No answer. Under employee status the City would set schedules and pay for taxes and retirement.

Sandy: Asks if they are currently volunteers, why are taxes being deducted from their current stipends.

Terri: The City CPA advises that the City hold out social security and Medicaid.

Carter: Uses an example of Elmore County where quite a few years ago they had a similar situation. Their fix was to schedule EMTs for 12 and 24 hour shifts. They would pay \$22.00 for each run, counting the schedule shift as 1 run since the EMT had to be at the shed for that shift. The Director was a paid position and Marla Spence was the director at the time if Tony would like to follow up.

Peggy: Informs council that she is the Treasure for the Association and excuses herself from the meeting.

Tony: A problem he sees with the example of Elmore County is it would tie a money figure to set hours worked and it may be considered an hourly wage, falling again into an employee status. Tony was informed that John Roberts sent an email with concern that the ambulance was not in service last week during work hours.

Michele: Herself, Rindy and Tamara will be at the Spring Fling Conference and will ask other agencies what policies they have. The Council thinks that is a great idea and a great place to network.

Rindy: New Meadows has a 1 fulltime paid EMT position from 8am-5pm and volunteer personnel fill in around that shift.

Mayor Hanson: Adds that East Boise County provides a paid Director position.

Carter: The demographic in the community has changed over the past 10-15 years. Individuals are leaving the area for work as well as working longer hours, and the people left here are generally older and they are tapped out trying to fill the various volunteer positions throughout the community.

Mayor Hanson: Adds that both parents work in families that are younger.

Tony: That all provides good insight into the situation.

Tony: The second issue is the proposed Boise County Joint Powers Agreement and proposed boundary lines. Tony passes out a draft Joint Powers Agreement and asks everyone to read section 2.1.1 which is the described service area and asks if that description is correct. He and Susan Buxton, City Attorney has spoken with former Prosecuting Attorney Ian Gee of Boise County over their concerns with the agreement. Since Mr. Gee is no longer with the County, Susan has been in discussion with the new Prosecuting Attorney but things have not moved forward. The main issue with the agreement is that it only addresses the boundary. It does not address any provisions for coverage when the ambulance is out of service, like delay time if another entity needs to be called out, compensation from the County to the City for responding out of City limits or if the proposed boundary is accurate.

Carter: Has a concern with "...end of road in Jerusalem Valley." because there is no end to that road. It continues on over the summit. Also, State Communications knows when the ambulance

is out of service. They will page Horseshoe Bend and if no one responds they immediately page Garden Valley so delay time is very minimal if at all.

Sandy: Section 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 does not mention Jerusalem Valley or Hwy 55.

City Council / Mayor Hanson: Funds received for runs go to the ambulance which is in the City's General Fund. The EMS receives taxes from City residents but not from County residents. Cammack, the EMS billing company, recently informed the City that current ambulance charges are too low.

Tammy: Questioned about a taxing district and Mayor Hanson described the process.

Tammy: Lives in the County and agrees the ambulance fees should be higher for County residents.

Tony: Wants to have accurate boundary lines drawn up while also protecting the City.

Councilwoman Cooper: Asks if there is anything the Council can look into or any information they can provide for the EMS Dept. No answer.

Sandy: Handed out an ambulance run check off sheet. She is keeping track of all the runs and is trying to make sure all the run numbers match State Communication. The sheets will keep better track of the run numbers each month and for the year.

Carter: Stressed to everyone that the first entity to get their bill(s) in gets paid, and that run reports do not have to have the narrative to be billed. That can be added later.

Tracy: The City is having a public hearing next week on a new city fee schedule and fees for the ambulance should be added.

Martye: Feels the policy should be changed to require run reports be in within 24 hours to help with billing.

Sandy: Has concern with shortening the time frame. Discussion was made on the pros and cons of changing the time frame.

Tony: Provides his email so if anyone has concerns or has questions they can contact him.

Tamara: Has an idea that as part of the stipend or for being an EMT that the City could provide a LifeFlight/AirSt.Lukes membership. Council thinks that is a great idea to consider.

Councilwoman Cooper: Citizens have come forward with concerns over the ambulance being out of service so often. Mayor and Council thank the EMT's for their service.

Tracy: A Post Certified EVOC Instructor has offered his time for free to provide a class to the EMS Dept. The City can rent the course at post and he will provide hands-on driving instruction. This option will be pursued.

Mayor Hanson / Tony: This meeting's agenda was pretty open to allow for an open discussion. It will take a few meetings to work through the EMS policy together and any other items that may come up. Discussion was made to decide next month's meeting. March 15th at 7:00pm at City Hall was decided.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor