

2:00 pm

December 11, 2016

## **616th MEETING OF THE HORSESHOE BEND CITY COUNCIL**

Councilwoman Cooper called the meeting to order with Councilpersons Green and Riley present. Also present, City Clerk Gina Elmer and Attorney Tony Pantera.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Green made a **motion** to approve the agenda for the Special Meeting. Councilman Riley **seconded**. All ayes. **Motion carried**.

### **New Business:**

- EMS/Ambulance:

Tony Pantera says that the City received a letter from Garden Valley EMS, signed by Jon Delvalle, stating that they will no longer automatically respond to the calls, in the area covered by Horseshoe Bend, when our ambulance is out of service after December 9, 2016. Tony then spoke with Michele Carreras, Program Manager, Idaho State EMS Communications Center, how this will affect the Horseshoe bend calls. The tone will be sent to Horseshoe Bend EMS and if there is no response then it will be sent to Boise County Sheriff's Office. Tony also spoke with Judith Hutton and Jon Delvalle about the letter. Tony wanted to know if they would extend the date beyond the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Jon said he would take it to the County Commissioners and ask for approval. He also asked Jon if they would respond to the calls Boise County Sheriff's Office received and Jon responded yes. Tony says that the call times will be longer which is not ideal but there will be service. Judy told Tony that the EMS had a meeting earlier that week and managed to get the schedule filled for the rest of the month. Tony said that the EMS has been struggling with coverage issues for a while now, and the City may have to look into different options concerning staffing the ambulance.

Judy said she talked to Jon for about two hours basically trying to restore cooperation and communication between the two EMS departments. She also addressed the issues we have with shortages of EMTs and ambulance drivers. Jon has a program that we can use to train more drivers he has already purchased. Then it would only cost \$25 to take the certification test for drivers. Judith says as it stands now we have one person who drives and five EMTs if she uses the EMTs as drivers it would cut into the hours available for them to be EMTs. She feels that training more drivers will be an immediate way to help the coverage issues so she plans to start with that. Judy says that there are a couple of the firefighters and people in the community that have shown an interest in training to drive the ambulance. She also would like to streamline the application process for EMS, so hopefully the City will be training people that will volunteer their time.

Judy also talked to Al Morganroth, who has worked with the Chalis EMS Department. He will be forwarding his certifications and is willing to drive the ambulance. He is also willing to help with the drivers training.

Judith has also been in contact with Bruce Cheeseman looking into different options for EMT training. The EMT training will take longer to achieve and be more expensive. There are classes at CWI, but they cost about \$1300.00/person and the hours might not work out for individuals that have to work during the daytime. There are also private businesses that provide EMT training but they are more expensive about \$4000.00/person. The State provides the books for EMT training, but you have to find someone willing to teach the classes. This type of class would provide more flexibility for working people. Tony asks if the City receives money from Boise County for the ambulance services. Councilwoman Cooper responds that all the money comes out of the general fund. Tony states that Idaho code authorizes the Counties to provide ambulance services and impose a levy. Ultimately, providing ambulance services is a County obligation. Horseshoe Bend has been in practice volunteer ambulance service and attained an ambulance to do so, but we need volunteers to provide the services.

Judy asks about the amount of funding we have for the ambulance. It is her understanding that if we cannot find the volunteers to provide services Boise County will step in and create a taxing district to do so. Councilwoman Cooper says that the Council understands that the volunteers have their own lives and they appreciate the time they have given. One of the problems Council has is that the City has provided training for EMTs and they have not all followed through to provide service on the ambulance. Judith thinks we need to have a better screening process and work with the EMTs we have in the community to help with that.

Tony asks if any of the EMTs present wish to add anything. Melissa Seibel feels that the new drivers need to have more special training since there are only two people on the ambulance at a time. They need to have training with biohazards, communicable diseases, blood borne pathogens and know how to help with the patient to keep themselves safe along with the patients.

Judith says that Jon and Al would provide the training needed for the drivers since they have had experience in this area. Tony read the requirements to be a driver of the Ambulance out of the City's EMS policy manual. There was a discussion about how those requirements would be met. Tony also stated that the Fire Department had asked for a mutual aid agreement between them and the City for use of the extrication truck, and that mutual aid agreement is still available. This agreement would allow the firefighters to be drivers if needed on the ambulance as a last resort. Judy plans to help the firefighters that are interested in becoming EMTs gain the training needed and a lot of their skills overlap from being a firefighter. Judith also says that the policy may need to be changed some to allow the ambulance driving skills to be attained without being on a run. Such as, initially driving through a skills course and practicing on our local roads. Councilwoman Green is concerned that they will not have enough training if they do not require the on call driving. Melissa Seibel says there is a big difference in the skills needed driving in Boise during a code. Sandy Fenton says that you could not do mock

runs in Boise, she says it is the most difficult part of the driving. She feels that the driving of runs is essential. Tony questions whether the City's requirements were determined by ICRIMP or just what the EMTs thought would be necessary. He will check with the State and ICRIMP to see what they require.

Councilwoman Cooper says the Council's biggest concern is gaining volunteers to man the ambulance. Carter Duke states we could train drivers faster than EMTs. Councilwoman Cooper feels we need to find more EMTs or the City will no longer have an ambulance service, because the County will take it over. They would create a taxing district which would cost the taxpayers more money. The City budgets for the ambulance and stipends, but we depend on the volunteers to provide service. Sandy Fenton says that there is only about \$5000.00 in the budget for training. The City has always reimbursed the EMTs for their training and paid Melissa Seibel to an EMT training class. There was discussion about finding a trainer to start a class and try to bring people back who have been EMTs in the past.

Councilwoman Cooper says that there needs to be better communication between the EMTs and the City. The director needs to make sure that the Council is informed of what is happening or any injuries that occur.

Sandy Fenton voiced her opinion about The Mutual Aid Agreement that was in effect until September, and that we have helped out Garden Valley in the past on some of their calls. Carter Duke adds that there was about a year between the time that Garden Valley Fire Department picked up the Garden Valley Ambulance, and during that time Horseshoe Bend Ambulance helped with multiple calls. They were in the same position Horseshoe Bend Ambulance is in now.

Sandy Fenton says that there was an agreement between Garden Valley, Gem County, Ada County and Horseshoe Bend. Gina Elmer, City Clerk, is going to check and see if there is an agreement on record and whether it is still in effect. Judy feels we need to be diplomatic and keep a good relationship with Garden Valley EMS and Jon Delvalle. There was discussion about the scheduling and the schedule was filled through the rest of the month. The discussion then turned to the stipends paid to the volunteers when they go on a runs. Also, the loss incurred by some of the EMTs when they have to leave their businesses to go on a run. The City cannot afford to compensate the volunteers for loss of wages and time away from their businesses.

Tony says that the main concern is not to lose the licensing on our ambulance. The need is more volunteers as soon as possible. The Council is willing to help in any way they can, but they have to be informed.

Lynn Maxwell asks about the ambulance coverage area. The EMTs explained the boundaries and the people outside the city limits have an added cost on their bill. There was discussion about billing also. Lynn asks if it would help if she wrote an article in the Idaho World explaining the problems the ambulance is having. She is willing to sit down with Judith discuss what the article would contain. There was discussion about the minutes of the county commissioners meeting that were published in the Idaho World. Councilman Riley wants to make sure that the EMTs are attending the monthly meeting. Councilwoman Cooper would like the EMS monthly meeting pertaining to the

ambulance to be posted so that the public knows when that meeting is held. Judith Hutton would like to start a facebook page to recruit volunteers and post meetings. Councilman Riley said that the page could only be for information and recruitment not political views or opinions.

Councilwoman Cooper asked Carter Duke about the training the firefighters have to drive. Carter said they are EVOC trained. They just would need some practice driving the ambulance and familiarize themselves with where the equipment is located on the ambulance. He said that most of the firefighters have CPR training. Councilman Riley asked what kind of training is required by ICRIMP and the State of Idaho. He wants to know if it is the same as what the City requires. Tony will find out these requirements so that the City can make informed decisions on ambulance driver requirements.

Councilwoman Green says we have to make sure that the drivers are well trained and ready to handle the stress of a run. Councilwoman Cooper would like to see a new class of EMTs start around the first of the year. Judith is meeting with Bruce Cheeseman on December 14, 2016 at 6:00pm. She invited the Council to attend. Councilwoman

**Councilwoman Green made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to IC 74-206 1(B&F) at 3:17pm. Councilman Riley seconded. Roll call: Councilman Riley-aye, Councilwoman Cooper-aye, Councilwoman Green-aye. Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 3:24pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:25 pm.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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Acting Mayor