

FIRE COMMITTEE

February 9th, 2021

A meeting of the Fire Committee met via Zoom on: Tuesday – February 9th, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Present: Alderpersons, Rick Van Blaricom and Chad Leonard, Mayor Paul Isakson – City of Amery; Supervisor, Alan “Ace” Carlson – Town of Lincoln; Mike Gould – Town of Lincoln; Keith Karpenski – Town of Alden; Supervisor, George Fowler – Town of Black Brook, and Fire Chief, Dale Koehler.

Others Present: City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, Patty Bjorklund and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Ben Jansen.

Discussion: Financial Review of the Fire Department.

A review was conducted of the Fire Department’s finances from last year and to begin this year. Fire Chief, Koehler asked about putting this year’s savings towards debt retirement. City staff agreed to consult with the auditor regarding how this could be done moving forward. Having no other major issues the Committee proceeded to the next agenda item.

Discussion: Fire Chief’s Report.

Chief Koehler presented a spread sheet that showed all of the commercial buildings within the Fire Department’s jurisdiction. He stated that for a period last year all Fire Inspections were postponed due to COVID-19 and that now the department is starting to catch up on its inspections.

Discussion/Recommendation: MABAS Presentation and Update.

Chief Koehler had a powerpoint prepared to talk about the Department’s involvement with MABAS and its implications for the department. MABAS is a mutual aid system that allows our department to call in specific help from surrounding departments.

Discussion/Recommendation: Fire Protection Contract Review.

The current contracts for Fire Protection for the townships are very outdated. It has been desired that these contracts be updated to better reflect the current relationship between the City and the Towns. Chairperson, Carlson; offered to update the contracts and bring them back to the Committee in March. The Committee agreed and will review the contracts further in March.

Discussion/Recommendation: Fire Chief Evaluation

City Administrator, Bjorklund; brought this before the Committee to seek direction on how the Committee would like to proceed regarding performance evaluations for the Fire Chief. It was generally agreed on that she should consult with the Assistant Chiefs to obtain info regarding Chief Koehler’s performance and that these findings should be brought to the Committee. The review in question will be held during a meeting of the Fire Committee.

Member Leonard brought up the need to have a review of the Fire Department’s Vehicle Replacement Plan because of the expensive nature of the equipment. The Committee thought that maybe it would be a good idea to host the meeting at the Fire Hall so that the trucks could be explained and shown to each member.

Motion by Leonard, seconded by Van Blaricom, to adjourn at 6:30 P.M.

Ayes-6

Nays-0

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Jansen, MPA
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
February 10, 2021