

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson	Chair
	Audrey Nelsen	Vice Chair
	Bruce DeBlieck	Member
	Steve Ahmann	Member

Others present: Council Member Jim Dokken; Director of Public Works Sean Christensen; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 4:45 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Item No. 3 Request to Purchase/Replace a Skid-Steer Loader With Attachments (Resolution)

Public Works Director Sean Christensen brought forth for approval the request to purchase/replace a skid-steer loader with attachments. The total cost for the S590 T4 Bobcat with options package and attachments amounts to \$50,372.60. The cost includes the trade in value of \$14,750.00 for the current 2000 Bobcat with attachments. The 2014 Capital Outlay Program has included \$81,435.00 for the purchase and replacement of the skid-steer loader with attachments. The 2000 Bobcat currently has 2130 hours and there have been issues reported on difficulty from keeping the unit from creeping as well as hydraulic problems.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Ahmann to approve the purchase/replacement of a skid-steer loader with attachments. The motion carried.

Item No. 4 Public Works Garage Painting (Information)

Public Works Director Sean Christensen brought forth for approval the repair and painting of the Public Works Garage. Quotes were solicited for pressure washing, scraping, caulking cracks, and painting the exterior of the building, with one quote being received from Guptill Painting Contractors for \$41,624.00. Staff also recommended Alternate #1 to paint the exterior doors and frames for \$950.00, totaling \$42,574.00. The Committee questioned the insulation qualities of the building and the investment savings of using a metal skin on the exterior instead of painting.

The Committee recommended further discussion and a final decision be made at the Council Meeting on Monday, August 4th.

Item No. 5 Old Business

Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson provided an update on Fire Department activities. So far in 2014 there have been 178 fire calls, slightly above the amount of calls from last year. The majority of the calls have been for alarm system activations. Chief Hendrickson noted the average response time from the station to the address is 9 minutes. The Fire Department is currently advertising for paid on call fire fighters, displaying a

sign on 1st Street and word of mouth. The Department will be partnering with Caribou coffee shop to advertise by providing information and applications at their store. Council Member Christianson suggested using the LED signs of local businesses in town to advertise the openings as well. Chief Hendrickson informed the Committee the Fire Department is gauging interest from area townships and cities on their possible support in the Shared Services Grant. The grant would allow jurisdictions to participate in a study of a shared service model to enhance the quality of fire and EMS services, leverage acquisition of the latest equipment and training, and reduce operational costs in the future. A letter indicating their participation will be due to Chief Hendrickson by August 25th, so that he may move forward in the grant process.

Chief of Police Jim Felt noted the jail census for July 29, 2014, was 119, and the calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 832. The majority of the calls are for traffic stops, followed by public assists and animal complaints. Sonshine festival went very well with only 16 calls for service and there were no cars towed. Chief Felt reported the appearance of less graffiti with the gang enforcement team remaining active to combat those issues. It was requested that Chief Felt compile information on how many inmates from other agencies as well as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holds are included in the jail census. Council Member Ahmann commented it would be helpful if local government could receive information on the number of people placed in a community by ICE. It was discussed by the Committee if the 287G program is still being used, and stated by Chief Felt that it is no longer offered by the Federal government.

Item No. 5 New Business

Council Member DeBlieck noted the wind turbine has its new nose cone being installed.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean E. Christensen, P.E.
Public Works Director