

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson	Chair
	Audrey Nelsen	Vice Chair
	Denis Anderson	Member
	Steve Ahmann	Member

Others present: Mayor Frank Yanish; Director of Planning and Development Services, Bruce Peterson; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Sheriff Dan Hartog; Airport Operations Supervisor Eric Rudningen; Airport Commission Chairperson Pat Curry.

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 Police and Fire Updates

Chief of Police Jim Felt noted the jail census for October 14, 2014, was 133; 77 of those being Kandiyohi County inmates, 51 inmates from the MN Department of Corrections, 4 inmates from Swift County, and 1 from Stevens County. The calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 766. The majority of the calls are for traffic stops, followed by public assists and crashes.

Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson provided an update on Fire Department activities. So far in 2014 there have been 254 fire calls, compared to 239 last year. Chief Hendrickson noted the average response time from the station to the address is 9 minutes and 11 seconds. There are three new fire fighters starting the hiring process and one late applicant being processed, bringing on two males and two females to the department. The Fire Department has been awarded the Shared Services grant in the amount of \$36,225 to allow a consultant to come in for training for nine of the eleven cities within the county, and will be brought forth for Council approval at a later date.

Item No. 4 Donation for Restart of Willmar Police Canine Program (Resolution)

Police Chief Jim Felt brought forth, for review, the donations offered by Duininck, Inc. and Fancy Coats in the amount of \$15,000 to the Willmar Police Department and Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office to restart the canine program in 2015. The Willmar Police Department has been without a canine unit since the retirement of their last dog in 2012. The donation will be divided, with the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office each receiving \$7,500, for the purchase of a dog for each agency from a police canine company in Anoka. There is \$6,000 in approved funds in the 2014 CIP for the Police Canine program, to cover excess costs of purchasing the dog and patrol/obedience training. The dog will be assigned to a specific police officer, which will also receive specialized training, and will reutilize the existing canine equipment. Sheriff Hartog noted the dog each department holds will complement each other's schedule, allowing one dog to always be available for utilization.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Nelsen to accept the donations and authorize the restart of the canine program in 2015. The motion carried.

Item No. 5 Project No. 1302-A Change Order #1 (Resolution)

Director of Planning and Development Services Bruce Peterson brought forth, for approval, Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$7,850.62 for Project No. 1302-A to Duininck, Inc. for the Willmar Avenue SW improvements from Industrial Drive to 22nd Street. Minor work was needed to prevent erosion control, additional traffic control and temporary striping at the intersection of Willmar Avenue and Industrial Drive. The payment is within the project budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Nelsen to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$7,850.62 to Duininck, Inc. The motion carried.

Item No. 6 September Airport Report (Information Only)

Airport Commission Chairperson Pat Curry and Airport Operations Manager Eric Rudningen presented information from the September Airport Report to the Committee. Operations Manager Rudningen credited Airport Manager Megan DeSchepper and the Public Works Department for the open lines of communication with the successful airport operations and snow removal. As a general aviation part 91 airport, it sees an average of over 40 operations per week. Life Link continues to operate out of the airport and is still in discussion of gaining a permanent residence, as right now they share part of the facility with the FBO.

Item No. 7 Old Business

There were no items for Old Business.

Item No. 8 New Business

There were no items for New Business.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning & Development Services