

GROVE CITY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2015

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

MEETING WITH THE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS: The Grove City Council Members met with Swede Grove, Danielson, Union Grove and Acton Township Board Members along with the City Clerk and Fire Chief Joe Jans and Rescue Chief Jesse Hudec. The Clerk informed everyone that she was working on modifying an application form that fit more for individuals applying for a position with either department. She also mentioned that she would like to have a reimbursement policy which would require individuals to reimburse the City and Townships for the amount of money spent on their training and any personal equipment purchased for them should they not stay on the department long after being trained. Both Chiefs felt that this was unnecessary and that they discuss the training and expectations with each person at the time of interviewing and look for individuals who are going to be staying for a period of time. A few members within the Townships agreed that a policy wasn't necessary as long as the Chiefs stated that they take that into consideration before interviewing someone to hire.

The City Clerk presented her proposed budget for the Rescue Squad for 2016 and stated that it was lower than the budget discussed at the quarterly meeting back in August. The proposed budget in August end at around \$40,000 up from 2015's budget set at \$34,237.00 because the Chief was estimating an increase of personnel within the department. He hoped to get enough members to establish a department with 20 members. He also wanted to purchase a variety of equipment and turn out gear every year until every member has their own set. The Clerk stated that she wanted to keep the budget as close to the 2015 budget due to the added expenses the City was going to be incurring with the sanitary sewer/street project and she did not feel that the department would grow to 20 members or needed to have that many members.

Chief Hudec spoke about his desire to grow the department and how he had worked to bring the department and its equipment up to where it needed to be considering that things had been left unattended to in the past. He spoke about how each member of the department needed to have their own set of turn out gear to protect them from blood borne pathogens and the consequences of not having the gear and what it would cost the City and Townships. The fact that the department needs new radios and pagers and the cost of each was discussed. They asked him for a final dollar amount of what he actually needed aside from what the City Clerk's proposed budget of \$33,400. There was some discussion of adding \$2,000 to the budget and a final agreement of increasing the proposed budget to \$35,400. Hudec handed out a list of equipment he would like to see the department have in the future to the Council and Townships. Several items on the list the Townships said they would not support such as a second vehicle but they did want the members to have the equipment they needed to be safe.

The City Clerk presented her proposed budget for the Fire Department stating that there were no major changes or issues there only an increase of about \$260. The budget has been \$70,000 for several years but the department never spends that much. In 2014 the actual costs were around \$43,500 and looked to come in around \$45,000 for 2015. One of the major expenses this year was maintenance checks and repairs to the trucks which needed to be done. Chief Jans said he didn't have any special requests. The department is down a few people but they are doing fine and don't feel the need to be staffed at 20 unless someone wants to apply to join the department and they feel the candidate should be considered. There was some discussion regarding the age and reliability of the radios and pagers. There was a final agreement to approve a Fire Department budget for 2016 of \$70,260.

The contracts between the City of Grove City and the Townships were up for renewal. The Clerk presented everyone with a newly written contract for three years. After reading through it and requesting a couple of minor changes in the wording, the contract will be sent out to the Townships to take back to their boards for approval and signatures.

HIRING A LOCAL ATTORNEY: The Clerk informed the Council that she had called Rebecca Rue to discuss handling Grove City's nuisance ordinance violations. She said that she would but wanted to clarify that she handles these situations as criminal offenses and not civil offenses and that this has had good results for the City of Litchfield. Her fee is \$145 per hour. Council Member Halterman said he was told that Ms. Rue is real aggressive and successful in these types of situations. Council Member Peterka made a motion to hire Ms. Rue to handle the City's nuisance and ordinance violations. The motion was seconded by Council Member Walthers. Motion carried.

ESTIMATE ON A NEW COMPUTER: The City Clerk said she was quoted a price of around \$575 for a new computer for the office. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve purchasing a second computer for the City Office at a price of around \$575. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried.

MEDIACOM – INTERNET: The Clerk informed the Council that she had been in contact with our Attorney working on renewing the contract the City has with Mediacom. There will have to be a public hearing before the final papers are signed. Usually the renewal is for a 15 year period of time. The question was asked about getting free internet for the City buildings or cable. The Clerk stated that the City could receive free cable but not internet for the Community Center and Fire Hall.

2016 BUDGET: The Clerk presented the Council with an updated expense report with November's expenses now included. She asked if any of them had any questions or items they wanted to discuss. Bergstrom stated that she wanted them to consider increasing the rent for the camping sites and the renting of South Grove and the Community Center. There has not been an increase in the rental of these areas for several years and with the up and coming expenses the City will incur with the sanitary sewer/street improvement project she felt they needed to look at increasing fees for other things as well. People using both facilities will be using water and sewer. The proposal set forth by the Clerk was to increase the monthly camping rent from \$300 to \$350, the weekly camping rent from \$100 to \$125 and the daily camping rent from \$20 to \$30. Council Member Peterka made a motion to approve the increases to the camping rent presented by the City Clerk starting January 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Council Member Halterman. Motion carried. The Clerk stated that she had called the 4B's in Litchfield to inquire about what they charge for rent and if the City were to increase the rental fee of the Community Center and South Grove from \$75 per day to \$100 per day, the City would still be charging less than other places. An increase to renting the gym only from \$25 to \$30 was also proposed. A motion was made by Council Member Nelson to approve the increases presented by the City Clerk for renting out the Community Center, South Grove and the gym only. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peterka. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Council Member Peterka to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Walthers. Motion carried.

UNAPPROVED