

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Workshop Meeting
9:00 a.m., May 25, 2021
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Councilor Jim Perpich, Present
Councilor John Rauzi, Present
Councilor Brian Lillis, Present
Councilor Joseph Koivunen, Absent
Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich, Present

Also present: City Clerk Administrator Jackie Monahan-Junek; Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Police Chief Jesse Linde; Works Director Jerry Rosati; EMS Operations Supervisor Therese Elverum

Mayor Vlasisavljevich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. New ambulance

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek distributed a proposal from North Star Emergency Vehicles for a new ambulance in the amount of \$234,086.00. EMS Operations Supervisor Therese Elverum explained that the price has increased from two years ago due to a few recommended additions. Delivery will be about 10 months out from the order date. The 2010 ambulance is in need of replacement.

2. Participating provider with Blue Cross – ambulance

Therese Elverum explained that the billing company for the ambulance has switched ownership, and the service has been less than expected. Elverum and Monahan-Junek have been looking at transferring to a new company. The City of Virginia recently moved over to this company and is very satisfied. Monahan-Junek will ask City Attorney Brunfelt to review the contract with Trans Medic.

Elverum explained that the City is under an agreement with Blue Cross to automatically accept a flat dollar amount for ambulance calls. Elverum said this has been going on for many years, and encouraged the City to get out of the that contract as it is not benefiting the City.

3. Year-end 2020 financial reports

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek distributed financial reports and the year-end debt report.

4. 2021 discretionary capital & projects funding

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek distributed handouts for Council review.

Public Works Director Rosati informed the Council of the need to replace the current radios in all City vehicles. The current radios are outdated and the frequency is no longer allowed by the FCC. The cost for new radios is estimated at \$40,000 to \$50,000.

5. Tax forfeited property

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek informed the Council of a new tax forfeited property at 714 Harrison. This is a multi-family structure. The Council has not previously been interested in purchasing private properties. They discussed safety concerns regarding landlords not keeping up on their properties. The Council reflected on need for St. Louis County to have more staff available to check on rentals before issuing low-income status payments to the landlords.

6. Federal COVID funds

City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek has been attending webinars with the League of Minnesota Cities to determine eligible projects for the \$406,000 federal COVID funds the City will be receiving. Water, sewer, infrastructure and fiber are qualifying projects. The Police Department needs to expand broadband which would cost around \$31,000. Monahan-Junek will be bringing more information to the Council to determine which projects to consider.

7. AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system for water meter reading

Public Works Director Rosati discussed the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system with the Council. Use of this system would include installing an automatic meter read into each property. The system would automatically report the read by direct download to the utility computer at City Hall which would be beneficial as no reads would be missed or inaccurate. The City currently has around 100 automatic reads which are downloaded to a handheld device. This process takes an entire day for public works to drive around and get the reads on the handheld device which is then downloaded to the utility computer at City Hall. The AMI is around \$250,000 to install City wide.

8. Hippodrome lease with Rock Ridge Schools

Public Works Director Rosati, City Clerk Administrator Monahan-Junek, School Superintendent Noel Schmidt, and Athletic Director JoJo Scott met to discuss the Hippodrome lease with Rock Ridge School. Rosati said the school is planning to continue to utilize the Hippodrome and the new MECC arena in Virginia. Discussions with the Rock Ridge School District will continue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.