

Lanesboro City Council
Monday, December 3, 2012
Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Rahn, Joe O'Connor, Tom Dybing, Keith Eide and Ceil Allen

Absent: None

Visitors: Melissa Peterson, Colleen Lamon, Rick Lamon, Dave Haugen, Mary Peterson, Tom Smith, Rob Wagner, Ellen Wagner, Jan Meyer, Autumn Johnson, Mitchell Walbridge and Rich Horihan

REGULAR MEETING:

Rahn called the regular meeting to order.

Dybing made a motion to approve the agenda with adding leadership training, Christmas Decorations and Holiday Carnival, second by O'Connor, motion carried.

The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2012 were approved with a motion by Allen, second O'Connor, motion carried.

The Canvass Board Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2012 were approved with a motion by Dybing, second Allen, motion carried.

PERSONS WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

- A. Dave Haugen – Ambulance Director – Changes effecting Ambulance:** Haugen noted that for 2012 the ambulance went on 81 calls which was up from 2011 at 69. He noted 49 of the calls were in town and 31 were out of town. He noted that the busiest times were from 10am – 3pm and that is where a lot of the lack of coverage is. He noted that after March 2013 the department will be down to 9 EMTs. He feels with this number the service is unsustainable. He noted that the members have never been this low. He noted they are having a membership meeting on January 5th in an effort to seek more members and the Ambulance members want to do a letter out to the service area asking for people to step up and be a part of the ambulance. The ambulance department would also like a Council representative so that they can go to a member of the Council with their concerns. Haugen noted that in 2012 they tried a squad leader approach for their leadership, in which the director had three squad leaders. Haugen noted that the department has discussed the setup of this leadership and feel that a director and assistant director leadership may be more effective. Haugen noted that he is willing to be the director for an additional year, but noted that the ambulance is required to do more training, more documentation, than ever before. Haugen noted that they would like to honor the retiring EMTs: Roger Jorgenson, Frank Wright, Brok Johnson, Sandy Kiel, Vern Riddle and Pat Schmidt, he noted that these members have retired over the past year. The Ambulance is asking the Council to post the letter and mail it out to the service area on the ambulances behalf, to change the leadership to a director and assistant director and to seek out a meeting with our elected state officials to let them know how the law changes are effecting small ambulance departments and

communities. Allen made a motion to approve all three requests, second Eide, motion carried. Mayor Steve Rahn volunteered to be the Ambulance liaison.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- A. Library: November 13 - Allen:** Allen noted that the scholastic book fair raised \$520.75 in book credits for the Library. Mayor Rahn noted that a thank you letter from the Library Board in regards to Allen's service on the board was included in the packets. Mayor Rahn asked Allen to attend the first meeting in January.
- B. PU: November 19 - O'Connor:** O'Connor noted that with all of the issues of water quality, RICE Rules and upcoming projects that the meeting in January be a joint meeting with the Council, noting that Mike Bubany would be able to update the capital improvement plan. O'Connor made a motion to have a joint meeting for the January meeting, second Dybing, motion carried.
- C. Park: November 19 – Rahn:** Rahn noted that the rates will be reviewed prior to the 2013 season for camping and room rentals. He noted that over the winter the staff will be making much needed updates to the rooms that are rented out.
- D. EDA: November 7 – Vickerman:** Vickerman noted that the main item was community sustainment initiative and how the group is moving forward with the initiative.
- E. Chamber Update: Allen:** Allen reported that the Chamber was given a presentation by John Davis in regards to a \$25,000 grant received for moving forward on the Arts Campus concept. It was also noted that the Chamber was working with the State for the HPC Conference in September and the Chamber will be going on their annual retreat. It was also noted that the Chamber Annual meeting will be held in the Community Center basement on January 16th at 7pm.

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING:

At 6:00pm, Dybing made a motion to temporarily adjourn the regular meeting for the Truth in Taxation public hearing, second O'Connor, motion carried.

Mayor Rahn called the Truth in Taxation public hearing to order:

Mayor Rahn asked the audience if anyone wished to speak.

Rich Horihan handed his tax statement to the Council with notations besides the different entities. The percentage increase for the City portion of his tax increase noted 34%. Horihan explains his concerns with his taxes being increased by the City by 34%. Dybing noted that the City budget proposed increase is at 4%, so there has to be another reason why the taxes for the City would have gone up 34% and that the only other area of increase would be in evaluation. Horihan noted that he was aware his evaluation went up and he has already discussed it with the County. He stated that he would like to know who decides who gets taxed more. He feels the commercial businesses are paying for more of the taxes than the residential area and does not appreciate the Council picking who pays what. Dybing explained that the Council has no authority to choose who pays what and that they stick with a specific levy that correlates with

the budget and then the classifications of properties determines the percentage of taxes paid. Horihan says that he gets told by all levels that it is not their fault that the taxes are going up and he wants to know who is responsible. Vickerman noted that this year the County and School both went down in the levy and that the statement was showing an increase in taxes for both on his statement which means the increase is directly related to the valuation. She noted that the April Board of Equalization hearing is the place to discuss concerns with evaluations. Horihan said he would like to see the City cut the budget by 34%. Rick Lamon also noted that they did not see any huge increases this year, but ask that the Council try to keep the taxes low as they are at their breaking point. He asked them to consider cutting the budget rather than increasing the levy.

After no further comments, Allen made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, second Eide, motion carried.

Mayor Rahn called the regular meeting back to order:

HOUSEKEEPING:

- A. Paying of the Bills:** O'Connor made a motion to approve the bills as presented and any additional ordinary bills until the next meeting, second Eide, motion carried.
- B. 2013 Budget/Levy:** Council member went through the budget. Questions arose in regards to the number of hours laid out in the police contract, noting that it could be looked into for the future. Vickerman noted that the budget included 2% increases for the staff and step increases for the Library part time staff. After much discussion, O'Connor made a motion to remove the line item Community Sustainment at \$7,500 and to remove any additional increase of the budget from 2012 to 2013 from the line item unallocated expense, which results in a 0% increase, second Dybing, motion carried. O'Connor asked Vickerman to provide a five year review for Council members and Rich Horihan in regards to state cuts and levy increases.
- C. Liquor Licenses:** Rahn made a motion to approve liquor licenses for the Art Center's 2013 season, second O'Connor, motion carried.
- D. Office Closures:** Vickerman noted that the office will be closed December 24th at noon, December 25th, December 31st at noon and January 1st.
- E. Audit for 2012 - Update:** Vickerman noted that the pre-audit will be conducted on January 8th and 9th, with the full audit taking place in March.
- F. Snow Removal Resolution:** O'Connor made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, second Eide, motion carried.
- G. HRA Contract:** Dybing made a motion to approve the HRA contract for 2013, second Allen, motion carried.
- H. Grant Acceptance/Denial for Dam:** Rahn made motion to accept the grant for the dam from the Minnesota Historical Society, second Allen, motion carried.

- I. Thank you Letters and Recognition:** Mayor Rahn had asked Allen to attend the January meeting.
- J. Leadership Training:** Vickerman asked approval to continue on with her leadership program which included a program fee and cost of books. Rahn made a motion to approve Vickerman's participation in the program, second Eide, motion carried.
- K. Christmas Decorations:** Vickerman noted that some businesses were concerned with the lack of Christmas decoration south of the downtown area. She was asking if the City would be willing to purchase some decorations. It was noted that there were no funds available.
- L. Holiday Carnival:** Vickerman noted that the Lions and Fire Department have agreed to put on the Holiday Carnival again and that she and Michele have been organizing the event. She noted that the hours spent by both of them are all volunteer hours. Vickerman asked if the Council would authorize free use of the Community Center for the event. O'Connor made a motion to approve the usage of the Community Center, second Allen, motion carried.
- M. Miscellaneous:** O'Connor noted that the Dinner/Dance utilized the revamped kitchen to make the meals from scratch.

ADJOURN:

Dybing made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second Eide, motion carried.

A Closed Meeting was conducted in regards to Employee/Labor Negotiations: Results of closed meeting will be presented at next regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbie Vickerman
City Administrator/Clerk