

EMERGENCY SERVICES

October 4, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Dorchinecz
Alderman Olive
Alderman Vota
Alderman Burtle

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Alderman Budd
Fire Chief Crews
Assistant Fire Chief Goodall
Alderman Lanzotti
Alderman Walters
Officer Alan Mills
Deputy Chief Childers
Matthew Adermann
Paula Dunn
Nancy Likes
Trisha Lowrance
Elaine Wilkinson
Danny Klover
Richard Downing
Gina Dunn
Owen Lasswell
Wesley Withrow

Chairman Dorchinecz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

AFG GRANT

Chief Crews requested to apply for the 2018 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. He presented a list of items he will be submitting, but is still determining what the Department needs. When the list is complete he will provide the list and costs and the commitment amount the City would match on a 95/5 match. He advised the Department has received two grants this year.

He discussed the possibility of submitting for a new Fire Engine, the City's portion would be approximately \$35,000.00 if awarded. The Committee asked what would happen if awarded the grant then it was determined that the City does not have the funds at that time if it would prevent the City from receiving any other grants in the future. Chief Crews stated if awarded the grant and the City determines we are not financially able to proceed with the purchase; the City would be able to decline the grant without any repercussions. If accepted then declined, that would make a negative impact on pursuing any grants in the future. Chief Crews was asked if the Taylorville Fire Protection District could contribute towards the City's share. He stated yes and he could ask Foreign Fire Tax Board also.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Olive to recommend to the City Council to approve Fire Chief Crews request to apply for the 2018 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION RE: AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF TAYLORVILLE AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Chairman Dorchinecz discussed possible changes to be implemented to the new agreement between the City of Taylorville and the Fire Protection District. The current agreement is a ten-year agreement that will expire in July 2019. Fire Chief Crews presented the Committee with a copy of the contract between Curran Fire Protection District and the City of Springfield to review. Springfield has nine Fire Protection Districts and are contracted with four other entities.

Chairman Dorchinecz advised the Taylorville Fire Protection District levies a tax on property taxes for residents that live outside of City Limits. He asked Mr. Mike Gianasi, County Clerk & Recorder, how the taxes are figured; there are three calculations based on property values. In the past, residents had a choice to pay a fee to be in the Fire Protection District. If they chose not to be in the District and had a fire, the Fire Department would respond to make sure no one was in danger but they did not fight the structural fire. There were some bad circumstances due to this; now all residents outside of City Limits are charged. The funds collected on property taxes are then distributed to the Fire Protection District who oversees these funds. The funds can only be used to purchase equipment for the Taylorville Fire Department and administration fees.

Currently the City makes requests to the Fire Protection District for purchases. Chairman Dorchinecz and Fire Chief Crews are recommending that a percentage of the funds be set aside in an account that the Chief can purchase equipment from without having to schedule an appointment with the Fire Protection District. The Fire Protection District currently has over \$400,00.00 in an account. Some members of the Committee want to restructure how the funds are being held; other members stated if the City receives the funds, there would not be a surplus saved for large purchases such as the new fire engine being discussed.

Alderman Olive was a Volunteer Firefighter in the past, and he advised that there was a positive impact when the Fire Protection District was formed. The Department was provided with newer equipment etc. He has concerns with how the City would control the funds, as the Council changes and everyone has different views. Mayor Barry stated the Fire Protection District has always purchased the items requested by the Fire Department. He will schedule an appointment with the Fire Protection District next week to discuss proposals for the new agreement. He noted that City Attorney Romano represents both the City and the Fire Protection District.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Vota to recommend to the City Council to direct City Attorney Romano to prepare a proposal to present to the Taylorville Fire Protection District. Motion carried 3-1.

PROPOSED AMBULANCE ORDINANCE

Chairman Dorchinecz advised that there is no Ordinance in place to define what the process is to operate an ambulance service. This issue is being discussed as one local private ambulance company is no longer in business, which leaves one company to handle all the calls. Fire Chief Crews presented information outlining rules for operation another City has adopted and asked if this needs to be sent to the Ordinance Committee. Chief Crew's stated his concern is that there is enough coverage in place to be able to provide care to the residents.

The information states a City permit will be issued and the company is required to present the City with proof of liability insurance coverages. The ambulance service must have a minimum of two ambulances operating seven days per week (not counting ambulances contracted for special events) manned to meet the minimum requirements for advance life support service as set forth under E.M. S Act.

Paula Bantner-Dunn, President of Dunn's Ambulance, was in attendance, along with several of the employees. It was noted that once Sutton's closed, Dunn's added two more ambulances. She stated that the ambulance service is regulated by the State. She does not feel the City should be able to regulate how a private company is operated. The information Chief Crews presented gives him the authority to walk into the business at any time and regulate how to operate. She has no issue with providing the City with licenses and insurance coverages, but they are regulated by both the State and the Secretary of State, which have higher standards. Mrs. Bantner-Dunn does not feel it is necessary to provide duplicate information to the City. She will schedule accordingly as Dunn's is now the only ambulance service in town.

Alderman Lanzotti advised he agrees with the residents; it is redundant and he does not agree with what the City is proposing. Chairman Dorchinecz stated he has read the information Chief Crews presented but he has not studied it. Alderman Burtle reiterated that the main concern is whether or not one ambulance service can handle all the calls for service. The Taylorville Fire Department has been called to respond when there were two companies and no coverage available and they will continue to do so.

Mayor Barry has met with Dunn's and Sutton's Ambulance. The City may need an Ordinance in place and suggested a representative from Dunn's, Chairman Dorchinecz, and Fire Chief Crews meet to discuss issues in order to prepare an Ordinance. Chairman Dorchinecz was asked how to proceed with implementing changes and noted that this Committee can forward this issue to the Ordinance Committee or it can be discussed in this Committee.

Motion by Alderman Vota seconded by Alderman Burtle to recommend to the City Council to forward discussions regarding an Ambulance Service Ordinance to the Ordinance Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total of Service Calls: 161
- Inspected 11 businesses
- Trained on the following topics: Foam Training, Search and Rescue Refresher, Ladders and Boat Crane Operations
- Toured the Schools with the School Resource Officer
- New Hires began Academy September 10, 2018
- Two Dive Calls within last month (cell phone and vehicle recovery)
- Drone Assistance Response in Assumption, the police were trying to locate someone in a corn field
- Fire Prevention Schedule – October 6th will have children's activities for Chilifest
- October 9th -11th - Pre-school activities in morning and afternoon. They no longer have Ronald McDonald who has participated in the activities for over 20 years. The new Sparky the Dog is here.
- October 15- School Fire Drills
- October 30- Halloween with the Taylorville Police Department

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Chief Crews thought he was going to be sending Firefighters to North Carolina to help with the aftermath of the hurricane. The State makes contact through MABAS. They needed divers, but the Fire Department was not approached to respond.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Vota to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Ernie Dorchinecz, Chairman
Emergency Services Committee