

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
May 20, 2014
ISANTI CITY HALL**

Mayor Pro-tem Collison called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Wimmer (5:49p.m.), Councilors Sue Larson, Adam Johnson, and Dan Collison

Members Absent: Steve Lundeen

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Lorsung, Assistant City Administrator/
Finance Director Sarah Cotton and Human Resources/Deputy City
Clerk Karissa Henning

1. Discussion on Fire Services for the City of Isanti

Larson reviewed the four changes the City would like to see made to the Fire District:

- Weighted voting based on financial contribution
- Maintain current level of service
- Reimbursement for usage of City owned Station 1
- Restructuring of contribution formula to a valuation only format

Larson stated that the 100% consensus voting procedure, where everyone must agree upon changes, makes it very difficult for any changes to be made.

Larson touched on the issue of billing for service calls. Brush fires and medical runs are being charged the same. Brush fires can take multiple hours and medical runs may take as few as fifteen minutes.

There was discussion that a majority of the City's calls are medical calls.

Mayor Wimmer stated the City is overpaying the Fire District by about \$30,000.

Mayor Wimmer noted the City is paying a lot to be a part of the Fire District and has very little authority over it. Mayor Wimmer stated the City should have a higher voting level/weight due to the amount of money the City pays in.

Mayor Wimmer made comment that there are members of the Fire District who do not even have entire sections of their towns within the Fire District, and do not pay as much; however, those members still have an equal voting weight as members completely covered by the Fire District.

There was discussion about last year's attempt for the Fire District to become an independent taxing district and how that failed. The Fire District has tried to become an independent taxing district two times, both unsuccessful. The Council does not foresee

the Fire District having the ability to become an independent taxing district as many members of the Fire District voted against this.

The Council reviewed alternative options they could take if the Fire District does not make the four changes they desire. The City could either become a stand-alone Fire Department and bill out for its services, or it could also partner with a couple townships if any are so willing.

There was discussion that if the City is considering leaving the Fire District, that the City needs to provide a fifteen month notice to the Fire District that they are leaving, along with a fifteen month notice for the Fire District to evacuate Station 1.

Al Jankovich from the Fire District was present and noted that if the City walks from the Fire District everything, including equipment, goes to the township the Fire District resides in.

Mayor Wimmer noted that in consultation with the City Attorney it was noted that the City would not walk away with nothing.

The Council discussed seeking out an expert/consultant who is knowledgeable in getting Fire Departments set up for Cities, in case this is the route the City ends up going. This matter will be brought back to the second City Council meeting in June.

Adjournment

Motion by Larson, second by Johnson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karissa Henning
Human Resources/ Deputy City Clerk