

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Evansville Town Council Meeting, Evansville, Wyoming

February 24, 2020

Work Session

A Work Session was held on February 24, 2020 at 5:35 p.m. Present were Mayor Jennifer Sorenson, Council Members Chad Edwards, Aaron Vigneault and Sheena Hixson. Also present were Town Attorney Scott Murray, Treasurer Lexi Erickson, Town Clerk Janelle Underwood, Police Chief Mike Thompson, Fire Chief Leo Malsom, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Cornett, Public Works Director Ron Emond, and interested citizens.

Police Department Vehicles: Police Chief Mike Thompson spoke to the Governing Body about one of the 2014 Ford Explorer patrol units. He stated that it is in the repair shop because the steering rack is locking up. He stated that it is estimated that the repair will cost two thousand one hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$2,167.00) and that if the Town opted to trade it in right now that the trade-in value would be anywhere from five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to five thousand eight hundred dollars (\$5,800.00). Chief Thompson stated that if the Town looked at purchasing a V6 Dodge Durango, it would be approximately thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) plus the equipment and installation. Chief Thompson stated that with the problems that Ford is having with the water pumps and the potential engine problems because of it, he is concerned about spending anymore money on those units. He stated that currently the Town has three of the older Ford Explorers (one 2013 and two 2014) that could be an issue as well. It was brought up that the vehicle that has the steering problem was hit a few months back while parked and could that cause an issue with the steering rack. Chief Thompson stated that he would investigate that and see if it is something that could have caused an issue.

Discussion took place about the approximate amount a lease payment would be and the known expense if the Town made a lease payment, it would be a set amount due each year rather than paying out for repairs on the older units to keep them running. The Town Financial report was reviewed and discussion of the monies that the Town is currently committed too such as the lease payments for Dodge Charger Police cars, the Zoll Heart Monitors and other budgeted items versus what the revenues have been.

Police Department Staffing: Chief of Police Mike Thompson stated that he currently has an opening for a police officer and has two police officers out on light duty. He stated that back at budget times last year, it was proposed that a twelfth position be created but it was recommended to hold off to see where things wind up with the revenues that the Town has coming in. Chief Thompson stated that he feels the time is now to fill the position. He handed out to the Governing Body statistics on the police officers time spent per call sheet for the last twelve plus months and stated that the officers extremely busy. He asked Sergeant Nelson and Sergeant Newsome to convey to the Governing Body the struggles that the Police Department has been through in the past when they were shorthanded. Both Sergeants spoke of the low morale, the burn out, working alone and then potential of losing an officer to another agency because of the understaffing.

Mayor Sorenson stated that she has spoken to and seen the officers when staffing is low and concerned about the burn out, complaints from the citizens and then when you factor in the expense of overtime.

Chief Thompson stated that he doesn't want to revert to the way things were when he became the Chief of Police and stated that he would like to see it where there are two police officers per shift. Chief Thompson stated that he will start advertising this week for applications.

Work Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m. No action was taken.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED: 
Janelle Underwood, Town Clerk


Jennifer Sorenson, Mayor