

TOWN OF EAGLE  
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 3, 2008  
APPROVED MINUTES

Chairman Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chairman Kwiatkowski; Supervisors Malek, Davis, Rasmussen and West. Also present were: Fire Chief Heim, Assistant Fire Chief Hein, Assistant Fire Chief Robert Baker, EMS Deputy Chief Jeff Nelson, Town Treasurer Pasterski, and Town Clerk Pepper.

Eagle Fire Department – Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Board has gathered to discuss possible alternatives for providing day time staffing, fire and emergency service and evaluation of Paid on Call for the Eagle Fire Department. At this time, Fire Chief Justin Heim presented his power point presentation, Departmental Proposals. Chief Heim explained that many members of the community do not realize that this is predominantly a volunteer fire department. Currently our volunteer firefighters and EMT's receive zero compensation for their time and effort on the department besides using their own gasoline with no means of reimbursement. It is actually costing our volunteers money out of their own pockets to serve their community. In addition, there is also a staffing crisis. Many members have increased demands of their work and family. During the daytime, the current turn out time or amount of time it takes to leave the station is approximately two minutes. In the evening, when relying on volunteers to come from home, the turn around time is approximately six minutes. The national target time is less than six minutes ninety percent of the time. Chairman Kwiatkowski suggested to Chief Heim to calculate the turn out time and response time for 2007 to date. Chief Heim explained that they are currently exploring a Paid on Call staffing model. When firefighters and EMT's respond to a call on-duty, they will be compensated for their time. If additional personnel respond to the scene, they will not be compensated because they are not on duty. Responders would be paid based on their level of certification. In response to Supervisor Malek, Chief Heim explained that responders would not receive overtime or benefits. Chief Heim explained that many other surrounding communities use this system with the exception of North Prairie which pays a flat rate per call. Chief Heim reviewed the Paid-on-Call Rate Proposal. Discussion followed regarding the reimbursing for training policy, stipends for Chiefs, and time tracking. Supervisor West presented information he received from Dousman Fire Department. He explained that he spoke with Tim Meyer who stated that they use an accounting firm to handle their monies, which frees them from some of their administrative duties. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that the Fire Commission currently oversees the Fire Department's accounts and that anyone is welcome to ask questions. He added that if the department were to use an accounting firm, the current secretary would remain secretary but just submit the bills to the firm. Discussion took place regarding daytime and weekend coverage and the need for full time staffing. Chief Heim explained that full time personnel are not meant to replace the Paid-on-Call's and volunteers of the department. Discussion followed on how the proposal would fit into the budget, how it would impact the taxpayers, and if there are any grants available. Treasurer Pasterski explained that the town will either have to borrow money every year for this proposal or the town will have to go out for a referendum asking to increase the budget by \$200,000 every year. This amount would equal about \$.32 per thousand per household per year. Discussion followed regarding the current ambulance fund. Chairman Kwiatkowski explained that it is his belief that monies in that account should not exceed the amount needed to purchase a new ambulance and that any surplus should go into the general fund. Treasurer Pasterski suggested that Chief Heim create his proposed 2009 budget.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Malek to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn M. Pepper  
Eagle Town Clerk