CITY OF MONTELLO

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

11-28-18

Meeting called to order at 6 PM by Mayor Doudna

Members Present: Jim Houdek, Barbara Barton, Venise Mugler, Barb Jordan, Ken Streich, Karlene Utke, Joanna Jackman

Member Excused: Frank Breitenbach

Others Present: Joe Konrath, Les Crandall, Sue Kozlowski, Thomas Breiling, Chara Hall, Marggie Banker, Jon Sheller, Dennis Schrimpf, Mike Raddatz, Chris Klahn, Tanya Daniels, Paul McNamara, Bill Faulkner, Mark Robinson, Paul Ninneman, Gary Sorensen, Kelly Kenitz, Bud Daggett, Brian Noll, Mary Ann Paul, Karen Smith, Steven Starke, Bobbi Richter, Fricke Consulting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MARQUETTE COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION TO CONTRACT SERVICES FOR CITY OF MONTELLO.

The City of Montello requested a presentation from the Marquette Co. Sheriff’s Office on contracting services for the City of Montello. Joe Konrath and Les Crandall were present to give that presentation. Konrath stated that it will be up to the Council to decide on what is best for the City.

Contracted Services would include:

* Hiring standards and background invest
* Established Policies and Procedures
* Initial Field Training (10-12 weeks)
* On-going In-house and In-service training
* Labor relations
* Supervision and Discipline
* Records management
* Public Information Officer
* Workers comp
* Temporary squad replacement if the city squad is out of service.
* Well trained and experienced leadership
* Routing of concerns through the City and/or directed enforcement officer

Accountability – ability to provide statistical reports. Keeps City, administrators, Council and the public informed as to what the officers are doing. This includes direct communication from the Sheriff’s Office through a liaison.

Local Control: Law Enforcement Services are specially tailored to fit the community’s unique needs

* Choosing the amount of services and the hours that suit the community
* Input into the selection of personnel assigned to their contract for Directed Enforcement Officers.
* Enforcement of City ordinances
* Flexibility of hours (change the hours for special events)
* Marquette Co. Joint Municipal Court – violations of City Ordinances can still be handled by the Marquette County Joint Municipal Court. This allows for the community to address issues that are important to the community and allows for local control and oversight.
* Local identity kept: own squad and police dept. office.

Personnel:

* The Sheriff’s Office is responsible for recruiting, training, hiring, labor negotiations, discipline and related issues.
* The Sheriff’s Office provides routine training on current issues and topics important to law enforcement and the community.

Why contract?

* City would gain all the resources of a large and experienced law enforcement agency
* City maintains local control and local identity in the partnership with the Sheriff’s Office.
* City is provided with trained and experienced deputies who specifically serves the City.

Three year contract numbers were given to the Mayor and Council. If the City would recommend contracting with the Sheriff’s Office legal counsel would be involved to create the contract.

Questions and answers:

Utke asked about Municipal Court. Konrath said nothing changes. Utke asked if Sheriff’s Dept. recommends the City have their own squad. Konrath stated yes. Crandall talked a bit about the rotation of vehicles and that when the time came for the City squad to be replaced he would come to the City to start talking about replacement.

Marggie Banker asked about the DARE program. Konrath explained that DARE programs have been done away with and program re-structuring has been done to reach younger than fifth grade children.

Jackman asked about the remedy if say the City felt the contract wasn’t working out. Konrath explained that they would ask for a three year contract. After the contract ends if the City does not feel it wants to continue with the Co. they wouldn’t sign a new contract. In regards to getting out of a contract during the contract period, Konrath stated he would hope that the City would state any concerns to the liaison. The city definitely has input. Legal counsel would need to get involved if the City wanted the contract broken before the contract is up. Mayor Doudna stated that attorney’s will be involved in the writing of the contract.

Sue Kozlowski asked why the Sheriff’s Dept. wants to take this on and what is the advantage? Konrath stated that the presentation was given at the request of the City and that it’s not the Sheriff’s Dept. that makes the final contract decision. The County Board makes the decision on whether to accept a contract with the City. The advantage is that it is very expensive to maintain a police department; technology, liability, etc. Having a contract with the Co. allows the City to have all resources of a large and experienced law enforcement agency with trained and experienced deputies. Barbara Barton said, too that the City has so much turnover, which is costly in itself to the city.

Gary Sorenson said that if the City decides they want to contract with the Co. it would be placed on the Co. Public Safety agenda then go to the full County Board for approval. He thought the process would take 2-3 months.

Mugler stated that she did the figures and that the City would be saving roughly $47,000 if contracting through the County.

Timeline:

12-3-18 – full council meeting – Council will vote on their recommendation to the Public Safety Committee.

12-19-18 – Public Safety committee receives full council recommendation and makes their decision.

January Council meeting (date to be determined) – Full council makes their final decision.

Motion by Jordan/Barton to adjourn. Motion carried at 7:15 PM

Minutes by Dawn Calnin