

April 19, 2010  
Cascade City Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Staner, Council members Boffeli, Henry, Knepper, and Soppe answered roll call, Moriarity absent.

Motion Boffeli, 2<sup>nd</sup> Henry to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Council member Moriarity joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Motion Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Soppe to open a public hearing on the City of Cascade purchasing and operating the Reiff Ambulance Service – all ayes. Joe Reiff spoke about the Reiff Ambulance Service and dedication of the volunteer crew. John Noonan feels that Municipality involvement is essential for an ambulance service, but asked the Council what long-range plan the City has to sustain the service financially in the next 2, 5, 10 years. Mayor Staner answered that Reiffs would help out as long as needed and that in 2 years the question would be where to house the service. The Mayor's plan would be to build onto the Fire Station to house the service there. Joe Reiff stated that the service's revenues come from money received for service, the townships and donations. If the City takes over the ambulance service there would be a budget set by the Council that the service would have to run within. Noonan asked if numbers had been run on the performance of the service and not just a hope for sustainability? Council member Henry replied that the City's contribution will increase and if City run grants and other funding sources could be utilized that are not available to a private owner. With the preliminary budget figures on hand, Council member Soppe didn't see figures for a new rig or any additional equipment expenses. Noonan questioned if there was money in the preliminary budget for the expense of replacing people that volunteer their time or for training new volunteers. Council member Knepper asked what the requirements for becoming an EMT and the amount of hours Peg Reiff spends in administration. Peg answered that the amount of hours required for training is the biggest requirement. When the service can offer local training there is a better response of volunteers than when they would have to travel out of town. Peg estimated that she spends 10 hours per week on administrative tasks since the billing has been outsourced. Peg then explained that the preliminary budget figured by the City for revenues for their first year might be under estimated by about \$20,000 because they just began using the 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing service and there is no grant money figured into the budget. Noonan stated that he hoped for the sake of the citizens living in the City of Cascade that this Council does not make a hasty and regretful decision as has happened not just too long ago. Motion by Boffeli, 2<sup>nd</sup> Moriarity to return to regular session at 7:55 p.m. – all ayes.

Council members agreed that the purchase of the ambulance service is an essential service that the City of Cascade must have, but agreed that the term of the loan should be shortened to around 5 or 6 years and if there are any projects that are not completed in a fiscal year that debt starts getting paid off. Motion by Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Boffeli to approve the purchase and operation of the Reiff Ambulance Service by the City of Cascade – all ayes.

Motion by Boffeli, 2<sup>nd</sup> Moriarity to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. – all ayes.

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Shelley Annis, Deputy Clerk