

**Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee for Tuesday, December 14, 2009.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Orsini at about 7:45 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Hensley, Million, Bormann, and Parmeley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Fire Chief Marvin Rodgers, James Lee, Denny Rusch, Don Rodgers, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, James Smith, Steve Oberman, Darryl Spauldin, Don Bagley, Zim Schwartz, and Matt Hensley.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Behrns introduced Captain Zim Schwartz, who has been sworn in as the new Emergency Management Director for the City of Centralia. She already holds that position for Boone County and for the City of Columbia. Schwartz said she was happy to be of service and offered to quickly report back on any items of Centralia's concerns. She said she was getting vender names for some ADD-related supplies and services, so Behrns could use the same contracts and pricing. She told Orsini she would look into the presence of an inaccurate shelter sign at the local Post Office. She also told Oberman that she will investigate whether all emergency tornado shelters are accessible.

City Prosecutor

No report to present.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon presented a report of Police Department activities in November.

Mayor remarked on the need for one more aldermen to be on the Dog Hearing Board, to join him and Alderman Simmons. Orsini moved that Parmeley be the third member. Hensley second the motion. All aldermen present voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Hensley requested that the City moved to permanently designate the 4-way stop signs recently installed for Bruton at Rollins and Bruton at Collier. He said that his neighbors had reacted favorably and he had heard no complaints. Chief Dudgeon said he had no problem with the designation. Behrns will prepare an appropriate ordinance for the next Board meeting.

Mayor Grenke read from a letter of thanks from the Macon schools superintendent. It complements the Centralia school administration, as well as Chief Dudgeon for assistance rendered in transporting students back to Macon when a bus was disabled.

Fire Department

Chief Rodgers presented a report of Fire Department activities in November.

Rodgers said Centralia firefighters were averaging four EMS calls during each daytime. Lee told Orsini that Joint Dispatch, the Boone County Fire Protection District, and the City continued to work on making emergency call-outs faster. Zim Schwartz is discussing ways to possibly segregate calls by type of responder; the plan has not yet found any red flags. Lee said there was not yet a fixed date, but he believe that the rotation EMS response by Centralia firefighter will be established right after first of year. Centralia will assume "alpha" and "omega" category calls. Latter, "beta" category responses may be added. The implementation is up to Chief Rodgers and BCFPD Chief Scott Olsen.

Rodgers noted his department is down three firefighters: Calvert, Heron, and Cox. Calvert is retiring after thirty years of service. Lee said they are being careful in their recruitment, and are current checking out two good prospects.

#### Emergency Management

No report to present.

#### Protective Inspection

An engineer from Trabue, Hansen, and Hinshaw met with Luther Angell, and Larry Clementz concerning removal of the building at 105 N. Allen. He described the City's commitment to avoid damage to their adjacent buildings and they provided access to the opposing walls in those buildings. He also learned that the Lotus Restaurant and Angell's do not have basements, only crawl space, making demolition easier. Spauldin asked about the viability of the fill in the subject basement; Behrns will check on this. Behrns hopes that the specs for the first step--asbestos removal--will be available soon.

The State has adopted a recent law that forbids enforcing Building Codes which require sprinkler systems in single family residences. This is in the new edition of the International Building Code. When recently meeting with Stan Shawver, Behrns learned that, until the state adopts specific regulations, the Boone County is only distributing "certificates" on which the buyer of a new home notes whether the builder offered such sprinklers. Behrns was also learned that Boone and Columbia are examining the new editions of the Codes for possible adoption in summer of 2010. We will not examine them until Boone County has completed its adoption process.

Behrns mention that Oberman has provided a number of handouts to be given to property owners who are contemplating construction or remodeling of commercial facilities. Oberman said the Accessibility Committee is eager to work with local businesses to maximize accessibility to retail stores.

Behrns told Orsini that work on demolition of the old Red Wood Motel complex had started, but would be drawn out. The separate, middle building is being remodeled for storage.

Behrns said he had not fully followed up on Bill Meador's building on Railroad Street. Orsini said that there is a new hole on the roof of the house at the southeast corner of Singleton and Jenkins.

#### Economic Development

Bormann reported for Chamber Director Ginny Zoellers, who had a conflict. He said that local merchants seem happy with customer traffic that resulted from the Christmas parade. There is also much interest for the night-time tractor parade scheduled for December 19.

Zoellers provided notes on the most recent meeting of the Chamber's Economic Development Committee. Bormann told aldermen that the request for census data was to help measure the percentage of local workers who lacked a high school diploma. The overall rate in Boone County may be low because of the University, but might be higher in the rural north area.

Behrns said he receive letter from the Chamber which included a full work plan. He had not checked, but thought that this might be the year to renew the City's contract with the Chamber. [Subsequent to the meeting, Behrns found he was wrong; the contract is not up until 2011]. Orsini said she would like to see a report specifying which goals from the work plan had been accomplished.

Behrns noted again that three replacement members were needed for the Centralia Industrial Development Authority. Curt Kelly has been suggested as one. There is no present IDA activity, but the corporation is retained in case need for quick need for assisting an industrial prospect.

#### Park Department

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Park Board have been distributed. The Park Board will next meet on December 15. Bormann said there would be a dance after the tractor parade as fund raiser for the recreation center. The Krazy Kats have been booked for another fund raiser after the first of the year.

#### Cemetery Advisory Committee

There was no written report

#### Tree Board

There was no written report.

#### Library Board

No Library Board minutes have been distributed.

#### Finance

Financial statements for November had been previously distributed. December sales taxes on target. Behrns said there was nothing to highlight that had not been mentioned in the past.

The preliminary list of bills over \$1,250 was presented. Committee had no questions, but remarked on the final payment for the substation transformer

#### Other General Government

Behrns reported on City efforts to control health insurance expenses. A proposed 18% increase in health insurance and 14% increase in dental insurance had partially covered by switching to a plan with higher out-of-pocket limits and slightly higher coinsurance levels for prescription drugs. Because of a change in the provider network dental coverage from Allied has been switched to be an addition of the Anthem Health Insurance. Employees were given a choice between contributing about \$29 for spouse coverage on dental and vision, or just dropping vision. Most preferred to make no out-of-pocket contribution. The remainder of the premium cost increase will mostly be offset by an audit of spouse and family coverage to eliminate spouses who have insurance through other employers and children past coverage age.

Behrns said that the annual ordinance setting the April municipal election will be on the next Board agenda.

#### As May Arise

Jarad Douglas and Mike Vega passed their most recent tests from the MPUA lineman classes. This is the last year for Jarad, who will receive a promotion from apprentice lineman to lineman--one grade on the pay matrix. An ordinance for the raise will be on the next Board agenda. Vega has one more year to complete before he is rated a journeyman lineman. Both men were almost perfect on their final tests.

Bids were opened today on two aspects of the substation project. The bids for construction of the express feeder circuit were lower than the engineer expected (although he had not give a specific target). The bid for materials for the substation switch assembly was also low. These items will be on the next Board Agenda.

Bids on the project so far as so low that we will be able to add a SCADA system for monitoring and control of both substations while still staying within the Lease-purchase loan amount.

Behrns updated Oberman on the status of his accessibility assessment. That for the City Hall is 99% complete, while only minor corrections needed. Those for the Police Department and Recreation Center are in progress. The City's utility buildings are not open to public and would need some changes only if clerical staff were ever added to field offices. Behrns will be working assessments of programs separately. He said he has a quote for a new PA system in the council chambers for use in the next budget. Such a system does not seem practical for use in the Community Room because of the inherent poor acoustics. The Boone County Community Partnership may turn out to be an added resource for merchants seeking grants to aid with accessibility remodeling.

Orsini said she would like to see all ADA discussion be to consolidated into one agenda topic on future General Government Committee meetings.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.