

BOARD OF WORKS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013
7:00 A.M.

Mayor Ryan Daniel – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Marcia McNagny – Absent
Dan Weigold – Present
Walt Crowder – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in special session to discuss fire personnel options. All members were present, Mayor Daniel presiding.

FIRE PERSONNEL OPTIONS Tom LaRue advised there was a grant available for firefighters; it was a 2 year SAFER grant that would pick up 100% of the wages for a firefighter. He stated they have it pretty much ready to go except for the memo of understanding saying that if we apply for the grant we would hire someone. He questioned the Board how they would like to proceed as the grant could be awarded up to a year out; August to August.

Chief LaRue did not feel it was an option to wait to hire someone; they had to get someone on the road. He stated that throws out a couple options; do they even apply for the grant and if they do apply and get the grant do they know for fact that there would be a second position on the horizon. He felt their chances of getting the grant was very slim being that we were only looking at one position.

Dan Weigold felt they should make the effort to apply. He shared that it has been made clear the need for another person for the department.

Walt Crowder clarified that if we would not get the grant the second position would be tabled. Chief LaRue advised that was correct.

Mayor Daniel stated if we go after the grant and are not notified before we would decide to hire but then after we hire someone we receive the grant we would be hiring 2 firefighters in 2014 which means in 2016 we would need to budget for another full time firefighter. He stated if the Board is not interested in hiring another firefighter then we should not go after the grant. He advised one position was already solidified in the budget as long as Council approves it but the second position has not come up until now.

Dan Weigold felt in a couple years a lot will be happening in our town so planning for that is not such a bad thing. He felt it was inevitable that we needed to start planning as Columbia City was growing at a steady rate. Walt Crowder added that emergency services accountability and responsibilities continue to grow. He agreed with Dan in that based upon what they know they should continue to proceed and go for the grant; if the grant goes through then it would give us 2 years to prepare for that position.

Mayor Daniel questioned if our current facility could house 2 additional firefighters. Chief LaRue advised he could house up to 6 per night and currently, at max, they house 2 per night.

Mayor Daniel felt it sounded like the Board of Works was giving approval to move forward with the grant process. Chief LaRue advised he would see if Doug Reed could have the memorandum of understanding around for the meeting on Tuesday.

Walt Crowder questioned if this was a state or federal grant. Chief LaRue advised it was through FEMA.

General discussion followed on the status of the new proposed fire truck purchase and the future of the truck to be replaced.

Having no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle