

MINUTES OF THE WINNEBAGO CITY COUNCIL

City of Winnebago

June 8th, 2011

A joint work session between the city of Winnebago and Blue Earth was held on Tuesday June 8th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center Council Chambers.

Nowak called the meeting to order and conducted roll call. Blue Earth Council members present: Aukes, Gaylord, Huisman, Scholtes, and Erichsrud. Winnebago members present: Johnson, Ziegler, Robertson, Scofield. Absent: Blue Earth Mayor Hammond, and Gartzke. Staff Present: City Administrator Bless, Deputy City Clerk Boeck, Police Chief Robert Toland, and Blue Earth City Administrator Kathy Bailey.

General Business

Proposed contract for Police Service

Bless presented a slide show presentation outlining the following:

- For the remainder of 2011 Winnebago can provide Blue Earth with police coverage for \$36,516 per month. A savings of \$7,250. In 2012 Blue Earth would see a cost savings totaling \$94,335 for the year and \$97,185 in 2013.
- In the proposed contract Blue Earth would maintain their identity including their existing office, squad cars, uniforms, and patrolling hours.
- A joint advisory committee would be created comprised of both Blue Earth and Winnebago council members and well as the Chief of Police. That committee would then make recommendations to the Winnebago City Council.
- Officers would be under the sole supervision of Police Chief Robert Toland.
- Implementation of any agreement would require a 30 day lead time for personnel reasons.

Gaylord asked how Winnebago council members felt about providing police coverage in Blue Earth. Johnson stated it's very doable and worth taking the time to look into. Ziegler stated he has full confidence in leadership and that Bob Toland is fully qualified. Robertson added that it is a good fit and he trusts Bob's judgment and he would like to see the two towns come together. Scofield reiterated that she thinks the effort and research put forth by Austin and Bob was a good idea. She too has the same confidence in Bob as the rest of the council members do.

Huisman asked what Tolands' future plans were. Toland stated he would commit to the project and will stay on board until the project is working.

Aukes asked who would be in charge of the hiring after Bob. Ziegler thought input from the advisory committee would be essential. Bleess stated he was open to the terms of the committee.

Mayor Nowak then asked how the Blue Earth council members felt about the situation. Gaylord mentioned he likes the positive energy and thinks it could work. Before the meeting he was skeptical and feels more reassured after talking with the members of the council. Huisman stated the timing is right to look at options and he is ready to make a decision. Aukes mentioned he was skeptical but wanted to take a hard look, which is now definitely an option. Schultes felt he got a lot more information and feels it would be a smooth transition. Erichsrud said he looks at it as the time to move forward.

Administrator Kathy Bailey stated that the Blue Earth city council would be meeting on Monday June 13th, and moving forward to making a decision.

Discussion held. No action taken.

The meeting was declared adjourned.

Presented to Council June 14th, 2011

ATTEST:

Randy Nowak
Mayor

Austin Bleess
City Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer