

Wykoff City Council/Rural Board Meeting
Minutes
February 12, 2025 ~ 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Wykoff City Council and Rural Township Boards was held in the Council Room at 106 N. Gold St. on Tuesday, February 12, 2025. Attendees included Mayor Ryan Breckenridge, Jeff Hare, and Jane Baker. Becky Schmidt-City Administrator, Cory Bremseth-First Responder Director, Michael Lund-Fire Chief were also in attendance. Rural Board members were Bonnie Heidtke-Fillmore Township, Dan Schmidt-Fountain Twp, Gary Krahn-Fillmore Twp., Michael Juzwiak-Fillmore Twp., Robert Schmidt-Fillmore Twp.

Becky reviewed the budget printouts that all had received. The Rural Fire expense budget was \$21,240.00 and City was \$25,915.00. The Townships had approved a 6% increase for five years and there is one more year left. The EMS is set at \$6.00 per capita.

Michael Lund, Fire Chief, reported that the department has had a very quiet year. They had 13 calls with lift assists and 11 were from the rural townships. They are fully staffed with 22 members. There are four firefighters that are currently taking Fire Fighter I & II and Hazmat training. They are still looking into a new pumper and keeping an eye on what is out there for sale. They feel that this will need to be done in 2025 or 2026. Becky stated that there is \$229,000 in restricted funds for the Fire Dept. Lund feels that it could cost up to \$400,000 to replace the pumper, and there are options to sell the old one.

Cory Bremseth, Director of the EMS updated the members on the First Responders. He noted that he also serves on the ambulance service for Spring Valley. A training is being planned by Mike Zimmer which he believes he has three fire fighters who are interested in taking the course. He noted it has helped tremendously this year to have some of the Fire Department that respond to their calls to just drive. They will need more radios when they finish the training. Cory stated he had applied for a grant which paid for one of the radios that were purchased last year. The struggle is to maintain the members once they have taken the course. They are trying to get a commitment from them to stay on for at least a year. He stated that they had 69 calls in 2024. Everyone agreed that it is very hard in small communities to maintain the EMS and Fire Departments.

Becky noted several of the Townships had submitted to the county for assessments which helps the bottom line. There is only one outstanding call, and that person has continued to pay as they can. She noted that Jordan Township did not assess for their call which will come off of the township's budgets.

Mayor Breckenridge noted that the city had recently spent funds to repair the Fire Station as the foundation was sinking. They also had put in a new electrical panel as the new siren will be located near the fire station. Becky noted that the two sirens at each end of town were 35-40 years old and were becoming difficult to find parts for repairs. Mayor noted that the children

attending St. John's could not hear the siren in certain parts of the building. The siren is paid for by the City using Emergency Management Funds. The siren will rotate and should reach out into the Townships.

Mayor Breckenridge asked for any other questions or comments, hearing none, motion by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Dewey Krahn to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

_____ City Administrator _____ Date of
approval