

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HEPPNER POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 NORTH MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OR
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 6:00 PM**

Attendees:

Corey Sweeney
John Doherty
Adam Doherty
Sharon Inskeep
Mike Sweek
Mike Haugen
Justin Hoefft
Brian Snyder

Absent: None

1. Call to Order

The January 25, 2024 meeting of the City of Heppner Police Commission was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Corey Sweeney.

2. Minutes of April 29, 2021 meeting

For information only.

3. Elect Chairman, Vice Chairman for 2024

Motion to elect Mike Haugen as Chairman by Adam Doherty. Seconded by: Sharon Inskeep. Motion Carried.

Motion to elect Justin Hoefft as Vice Chairman by Mike Haugen. Seconded by Adam Doherty. Motion Carried.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

A. Sheriff's Contract

John Bowles and Brian Snyder met with John Doherty last week and discussed the contract. The contract for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was \$194,000. The cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is \$230,000. In early 2023 Morrow County did a salary evaluation. Every employee county wide got some type of a raise. It was a significant raise for the Sheriff's Office. The lower step deputies ended up with a 24% raise as they were

underpaid. This is the reason for the increase. The \$230,000 does not involve equipment, that is just for salary. Two contracts were presented. They are both for 80 hours a week with a guaranteed 320 hours per month. One is just for salary and \$44,000 for the vehicle. The other is without the vehicle. The option without the vehicle was offered due the cost increase. Morrow County's contract is about \$10.00 less per patrol hour than Union County, for the contract they offered to Union and Island City. Police Commission meetings are quarterly, but we need a decision before the March 11th Council Meeting for the annual contract renewal. If there is no decision tonight, we would have to hold a special meeting in February or early March to continue discussions. The vehicle the city gets from the Sheriff's office is beneficial, but Chad would like to go without for this 2 year contract due to the cost. The city usually buys 2 vehicles every three years. The vehicle wasn't budgeted correctly in the last few years so it will be easier to opt out at this time. During the next Budget we can start working on getting it included correctly and go back to it in the future. The Commission would like to have a little more time to look at the contracts. They will have another meeting. Mike Haugen asked what the protocol was if there was an incident and there was not a deputy on duty. Would the local police be able to respond? Undersheriff Snyder said that they try to get the closest deputy possible and go down the chain from there until they can get someone to respond. Corey Sweeney mentioned some instances in the last 5 years where it took over an hour to get a deputy to respond. Undersheriff Snyder said that this is going to continue to happen. At times there is only one deputy working in a 2,000 square mile area. Protocol is that whoever is on duty is who is first to respond. If it is a hot call where someone is in danger, they will start calling other deputies to get a quicker response if the on duty officer is out of the area. They are currently short staffed, and they are trying to do the best they can. Full staff is 13 deputies. They are looking at new ways to adjust their shift coverage. Hopefully they will be able to cut down on their response time. When they are full staffed, they have someone on 24 hours a day 7 days a week within the County. Irrigon's contract is for 40 hours a week, Thursday thru Sunday. Corey Sweney would like to see someone here Monday through Friday for Code Enforcement etc. Have someone on patrol on the weekends and someone available on-call that lives in Heppner who would be able to respond in 15 minutes. Undersheriff said that would be great if they were to able to do that. There are a lot of logistics to work out for that. It would cut the patrol time for Heppner and he is not sure how that would work. The commission went back to discussing the contract and whether they want the vehicle included or not. Chad and John would like to skip the vehicle this year and have an option to add it back in next year. Change the 2024-2025 as a non-purchase year and 2025-2026 as a purchase year. Undersheriff Snyder will try to get some information about shifts and calls for the next meeting.

6. Additional Discussion

A. Meeting times

John Doherty asked if 6:00 PM is a good time to have the meetings. If so they would need to make a motion to change the time.

Motion to change the meeting times to 6:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month by Mike Haugen. Seconded by Sharon Inskeep. Motion Carried

Motion to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday February 27th to discuss the Sheriff's contract by Justin Hoeft. Seconded by Mike Haugen. Motion Carried.

7. Adjournment at 7:02 PM