

NOVEMBER 13, 2019, PROPERTY COMM. MEETING HELD JOINTLY WITH RUSK COUNTY PROP. COMM.
Filed as NOV. 25. County Board Room. Members present: B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds. Other City representatives present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gibbs, K. Julien. County Representatives present: A. Albarado, L. Beebe, J. Biller, T. Hall, T. Hansen, K. Hess, M. Hraban, A. Rathsack, P. Schneider, R. Tatur, J. Wallace, D. Willingham.

Call to Order:

County Property Committee Chair Hauser called that Committee to order and Morgan did the same for the City Committee.

Discussion:

Mr. Reynolds opened discussion with a statement. A lengthy discussion ensued, which focused on rent the City has requested of the County in view of increasing costs that trace to the ambulance staff occupying the space for longer hours thereby using its facilities and increasing utility costs.

- Although County and City (Engelhardt) law enforcement employees cooperate in switching off to cover the public access counter the City pays \$7,000 extra for this.
- While 50% of ambulance calls may originate in the City that has a lot to do with rural folk moving into elderly housing or nursing homes in the City after having lived outside the City most of their lives.
- Surveys have indicated that 70% of those employed in the City reside outside it.
- Counties are not required by law to provide ambulance service; municipalities are.
- It is uncertain what MCHS's intentions are as relates to ambulance service.
- County and City law enforcement need to do law enforcement and not be dragged into money issues.
- Maybe rent of LPD space could be traded for rent of EMS space. Or the two functions could, effectively, swap spaces. Current co-location of the two law enforcement services maximizes cooperation to the benefit of all.
- Because EMS staff are somewhat underutilized between calls, they can do custodial for both the EMS space and that shared with LFD.
- None of this may matter in a year or two if it decided to locate ambulance facilities either side of Ladysmith, or if MCHS gets involved in provision of this service.
- The County does a number of things for the City that the latter doesn't recognize, and vice versa.
- If LPD relocated RC would still have power and heat costs for that space.
- 45% of ambulance use charges go unpaid despite collection efforts.
- Maybe five years ago (?) consideration was given to adopting an ambulance garage lease agreement. That agreement didn't call for payment of any significant rent but, rather, was intended to establish responsibilities in the event of any liability claim.

Next Step(s):

The Property Committee will plan to meet with P&FC reps to decide where to go with this matter.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.