



**MINUTES
CITY OF LAUREL
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023**

The Emergency Services Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00pm on Monday, August 28, 2023, by Chair- Heidi Sparks

Members Present: Heidi Sparks- Chair, Irv Wilke- Vice-Chair, Jodi Mackay, Bruce McGee,

Others Present: Police Chief Stan Langve, Ambulance Director Lyndy Gurchiek, Fire Chief JW Hopper, Troy Charbonneau- Ambulance, Evan Bartran- Fire

Public Input: None

General Items

1. Approval of Emergency Services Committee minutes of July 24, 2023. Bruce McGee moved to approve the minutes; Irv Wilke seconded- Motion carried 4-0

New Business

2. Update from Emergency Departments

- a. Fire Chief JW Hopper- Report attached

- i. Items to note:

1. 36 Members currently- Fully staffed is 45
2. New truck expected mid-September- Flying out Sept 18th
3. DNRC Grant- Forest service behind, so still waiting to hear on this grant
4. Front Line Pumper currently in service is 32 years old, mayor has asked the department to look at replacing this

- a. Bruce asked about the used pumper- Chief Hopper stated this would be sold

- b. Police Chief Stan Langve- Report attached

- i. Items to note:

1. 13% decrease in calls Month over Month from July, 16% increase over the 3-year average
2. Down 2 officers and have interviews scheduled this week
 - a. Looking at filling reserve positions as well
3. Montana Department of Transportation did provide and update on the traffic study of Main- did state that Main and 5th could be a 4-way stop

- c. Ambulance Director Lyndy Gurchiek- Report attached

- i. Items to note:

1. MDT ambulance grant was applied for and we will hear by October- the 10% match is in the budget
2. EMS Data Systems Fund grant- this is for patient charting, so specific to EMS- this grant is a reimbursement, desktops have been purchased

Old Business:

3. Mill Levy update- City Attorney Braukmann provided a Memo regarding the Mill Levy

- a. Jodi stated that the Small Business Alliance meets every other week and would like to have this presented tentatively at the Sept 15th meeting

Other Items:

4. Chief Langve- provided information from Public Works meeting around increase traffic and speeding through the Southside during turnaround (April 14 – May 13)
 - a. 12 speeding citations
 - b. 8 warnings on speeding
 - c. This is out of 60 contacts during this timeframe
 - d. This was one of the better turnarounds due to the parking lot being introduced this year
5. Cat Ordinance Discussion- Irv provided the background on the contract presented at Council for Savage Cat Rescue which was voted down
 - a. Irv wanted to bring this to the committee to determine if the committee wanted to move forward with exploring a cat ordinance
 - b. Bruce stated from past experience that at the time the animal ordinances were written cats were a very difficult item to address and the then-Police Chief was not in favor of moving forward with a cat ordinance
 - c. Jodi stated that she agrees a cat ordinance would be a very difficult ordinance to enforce. She also stated she has seen an increase in complaints regarding cats on social media pages related to the community. Jodi also stated that she offered to do a fundraiser for Savage Cat Rescue to assist and was turned down
 - d. Chief Langve stated Billings Municipal Code has an ordinance which addresses cats. With that said, there is a difference between cats that belong to someone roaming versus feral cats.
 - i. Billings also has more positions to enforce this including a separate code enforcement division, and animal control division. Currently, Laurel has all of this handled by 1 position.
 - ii. If we want to move forward with an ordinance like this, the funding and structure of the department would need to be addressed in tandem to passing that ordinance

Announcements

6. Next Meeting will be Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00pm in Council Chambers

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm

CITY HALL
115 W. 1st. St.
PUB WORKS: 628-4796
PWD FAX: 628-2241
WATER OFFICE: 628-7431
WTR FAX: 628-2289
MAYOR: 628-8456

City of Laurel

P.O. Box 10
Laurel, Montana 59044



City Attorney's Office
DEPARTMENT

Memorandum Re EMS Mill Levy Update

TO: Emergency Services Committee
CC: City of Laurel Mayor/Clerk-Treasurer
FROM: Michele Braukmann, Laurel Civil City Attorney
DATE: 2023.8.27
RE: Update on EMS Mill Levy Status

This Memorandum serves as an update on the status of the EMS Mill Levy, preparations for the upcoming November election, and various plans in relationship the Mill. At the present time, the following has been accomplished in relationship to preparation for presentation of the Mill Levy to the Laurel constituent population:

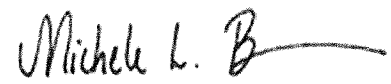
1. Valuation of the EMS Mill, as it relates to homes at the value of \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000, and \$600,000.
2. Presentation of the Mill Levy Resolution to the Laurel City Council. Approved April 2023.
3. Presentation of revised Mill Levy Resolution language to the Laurel City Council. Approved August 2023.

4. Preparation of the Ballot for the Election.
5. Presentation of the Ballot for the Election to the Yellowstone County Elections Administrator.
6. Approval of the Ballot by the Yellowstone County Elections Administrator.
7. Preparation of Flyers to be utilized at various locations throughout Laurel, including local businesses, City locations, and distribution throughout the community.
8. Preparation of a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Mill Levy to be used at various community events and meetings, posted on the City website, and distributed for the public (as needed).

Moving forward, the following is the “plan” with regard to “next steps” for the Mill Levy:

1. Posting of the Mill Levy presentation on the City website.
2. Meetings with various community groups to discuss the mill levy and show the presentation.
3. Answering questions from various community groups.
4. Distribution of marketing materials.
5. Twice weekly posting on the City’s Facebook page and various postings on the EMS Facebook page.
6. Distribution of marketing materials at various local businesses.
7. At least twice-weekly meetings with various constituents.
8. Yard signs and posting throughout the community.
9. Weekly committee meetings to discuss status.
10. Weekly updates to City Council Members.
11. Last “two week” push of marketing on social media, website, and in the community.

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL CITY ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele L. B" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Michele L. Braukmann, J.D.
CITY OF LAUREL
Civil City Attorney
civilattorney@laurel.mt.gov