

City of Medora
Minutes of Public Hearing/Special Meeting
February 22, 2017
(Subject to Council Review and Approval)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Todd Corneil. Present were Councilmen Denis Joyce, John Tczap, and Kinley Slauter. Ben Brannum was present via telephone. City Attorney, Sandra Kuntz, was also present.

The first item of business was to solicit input on the Police Chief Vacancy. Corneil presented the three options available: 1) Appoint Officer Lapp; 2) Billings County Sheriff's Dept. Mutual Aid Agreement; 3) Advertise. Corneil stated that John Tczap will recuse himself from voting on options 1, 2, and 3 due to being an employee of the Sheriff's Dept. Corneil proceeded to read a list of pros and cons regarding each item.

The floor was opened for anyone who had comments. There were several local citizens and business owners who spoke in favor of option 1—appointing Officer Lapp to the position of Police Chief.

Tczap questioned why it would be a conflict of interest for him to vote. Kuntz stated that looking at Tczap's role as an employee of the Sheriff's Dept. and his financial commitment because of this employment, it is her opinion that it is a conflict for him to vote. Tczap disagreed and requested a determination by the Council if this conflict is enough for him not to be allowed to vote on any of the three options. Corneil called for a vote if Tczap should abstain from any of the three options (yes-abstain; no-vote)

- 1) Appointment of Officer Lapp; Brannum-no, Slauter-no, Joyce-no
- 2) Billings County Sheriff's Dept. Mutual Aid Agreement; Tczap recusing himself
- 3) Advertise; Brannum-no, Slauter-no, Joyce-no

Mayor Corneil appointed Officer Russ Lapp to Chief of Police for the City of Medora effective April 1, 2017, subject to approval by the Council. Joyce made the motion to ratify Corneil's appointment. Second by Slauter. Discussion followed regarding changes to the Police Dept. with this new appointment. Slauter asked if Brannum should should abstain from voting on this option. Brannum asked if the Police Chief position can be elected. Kuntz stated that it is an appointed position. Brannum agreed to abstain. Joyce amends his motion to ratify Corneil's appointment with a 6-month probationary period. Second by Slauter. Russ Lapp thanked everyone for their support. He is excited to accept this new role and he has a progressive vision of how he wants to lead. He is proud to serve the Community of Medora. Joyce, aye; Tczap,

aye; Slauter, aye; Brannum, abstained. Sherriff Rummel congratulated Lapp and stated the County will continue to work with the City Police Dept.

The final item of business was approval of a voucher to Northern Plains Equipment Co. for the purchase of a snow blower attachment for the Bobcat. Steffen added that a budget amendment for this purchase is needed. Tczap made the motion to approve the voucher and amend budget 201-43100-427 in the amount of \$5,500. Second by Joyce. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business, Slauter moved to adjourn. Without objection, meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Attest: _____ Todd Corneil, Mayor

Attest: _____ Carla Steffen, Auditor