

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL

BLUE GRASS, IOWA

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

The Blue Grass City Council met in special session, as a Committee of the Whole at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th day of February 2025, at the Blue Grass Public Safety Building, 606 W. Mayne Street, Blue Grass, Iowa, pursuant to law, with Mayor Brad Schutte presiding. A pledge of allegiance and a moment of reflection were recognized.

The following Council members present: Tim Brandenburg, Cheryl Smith and Robert Blok. Absent were Council members Mike Hermann and Schuyler Bowman.

Also in attendance: Fire Department representatives: Fire Chief Brian Seamer, Captain Jason Verschoore; Fire Township Trustees and/or Representatives: Blue Grass Township: Matt Cruchelow; Dieter Geest and Dave Martz; Fulton Township: Rick Riessen and Keith Martz and Buffalo Township: Robb Ewoldt, Mark Judy, Don Moses and Willy Riedesel.

Mayor Schutte commented to the audience that the topic to be discussed at this meeting was intended for discussion only and that no action would be taken as this meeting was a Committee of the Whole session only. The meeting was opened for discussion.

ANNUAL FIRE TOWNSHIP MEETING: Introductions were made. Mayor Schutte read the 2024 Fire Township Financial report prepared by the City Clerk reporting an ending balance of \$161,234.95 noting that the financing through the Blue Grass Savings Bank for the new 2024 Freightliner M2 106 Tanker Truck has not been implemented; however, the Bank lowered the interest rate to 4.85 percent with an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00.

Fire Chief Brian Seamer reviewed the Fire Department's "Fire & Rescue Stats" for 2024 that contained the type of call, loss of property, date and time of call, listing all mutual aid calls for 2024 reporting a total of 481 year-to-date calls for service with the majority of calls being "Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident" recording a total of 1,972.65 on scene man-hours recorded logging over 500 hours of training for the year. He reported that the Department was strong and together, a resilient team comprised of 24 members, 10 being medically licensed.

Chief Seamer gave a brief update on the status of the new 2024 Freightliner M2 106 Tanker Truck was to be delivered in April of 2025.

Discussion was held on being proactive by either offering incentives and/or a per diem for every call attended or possibly setting shifts to get new members recruited.

Mayor Schutte referred to the Blue Grass, Buffalo and Fulton Township Agreements reporting a March 1, 2027 expiration date asking if the Trustees had any questions and/or concerns.

Mayor Schutte asked for further discussion, since there was none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Attest: Ann Schmidt, City Clerk/Financial Officer