

1410130

**City of Merrill  
Health and Safety Committee  
Monday, September 22, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall Basement Conference Room, 1004 East First Street**

Voting Members Present (2 of 3): Alderman Dave Sukow (Chairperson) and Alderwoman Kandy Peterson. Alderman Chris Malm had an excused absence.

Others Present Included: Deputy Health Officer Norbert Ashbeck, Fire Chief Dave Savone, Police Chief Ken Neff, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Alderman Ryan Schwartzman, Jeremy Ratliff and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

**Call to order**

Alderman Sukow called the meeting to order at 4:32 P.M.

**Nuisance complaints and exterior maintenance report**

The report was in the meeting packet. Deputy Health Officer Ashbeck reported that several citizens are participating in cleanup at/under the River Street Bridge.

A case on East Street was also discussed. To date, the Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator has not been able to obtain access to the premises. If necessary, a court order will be sought in this case.

**Vouchers**

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to approve the vouchers, as presented. Carried.

**Picnic and/or liquor license applications**

None.

**Consider potential steps to address train whistle noise, plan traffic counts**

This has been an ongoing issue.

At the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Health and Safety Committee meeting, City Administrator Johnson was directed to do research to determine whether City staff is interested in assisting with traffic counts. Conducting traffic counts is a necessary step in petitioning railroad officials for the establishment of a “quiet zone” on a portion of the railroad route within the City.

City Administrator Johnson now reports that he had rather “dismal” results when trying to get volunteers to help with the traffic counts. Alderman Sukow added that it was his understanding that only four people (Alderman Sukow, City Clerk Heideman and two Transit Department employees) were willing to volunteer to help with the traffic counts.

At this time, City Administrator Johnson recommends that, as much as he would like to do something, we should discontinue taking steps to try to establish a “quiet zone”. He stated that the costs are prohibitive, and that the City has other infrastructure needs that are of a higher priority. He added that, even if all the necessary steps were taken, there is no guarantee that railroad officials would approve the “quiet zone” plan.

Both City Administrator Johnson and Alderman Sukow stated they would be willing to discuss this issue with anyone that may still have concerns.

No action was taken.

#### **Monthly Report – Fire Chief Savone**

The report was in the meeting packet. Fire Chief Savone reported that the new rescue unit is being painted and should be in operation soon.

#### **Monthly Report – Police Chief Neff**

The report was in the meeting packet. Police Chief Neff reported that the next Citizen Police Academy will begin on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Twelve people are scheduled to attend.

A town hall meeting on drug use and abuse will be held from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at the T.B. Scott Library.

#### **Monthly Report – Lincoln County Humane Society**

No report was submitted this month.

#### **Place monthly reports on file**

Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to place the monthly reports on file. Carried.

**Schedule next meeting**

Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Motion (Peterson/Sukow) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 4:43 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC  
City Clerk