Minutes
Silver Lake City Council
Special Meeting
January 14, 2016

Mayor Bruce Bebo called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Members present: Mayor Bruce Bebo and Councilors Nolan Johnson, Josh Mason, Ken Merrill and Brenda Fogarty

Others present: Kerry Venier, Clerk/Treasurer, RJ Cripps, Interim Police Chief; Sheriff Scott Rehman; Chief Deputy Tim Langenfeld; Brenda Jaques; Karen Caldwell, Chronicle; Mark Anderson, Officer; Pat Fogarty; Jon Otteson, Gary Mallak; Leon Kaczmarek; Dorothy Schroeder; Travis Carlson; Trisha Schwanke; Ron Shimanski, Mcleod County

The purpose of the meeting was to review different options for law enforcement services for Silver Lake.

Clerk Venier and Interim Chief Cripps presented the following options for Law Enforcement services:

1. Continue operation as is and continue with the hiring process to find a new Chief.
2. Appoint interim Chief as the Chief and move forward with hiring a new Full Time Officer.
3. Appoint Interim Chief as the Chief and hire several PT Officers. (cut down 10-20 hrs./week would eliminate the benefit cost for 1-FT position)
-go with 65-70 hrs of coverage per week (review dept. policy of coverage from 10pm-2pm)
-officers go home early in slow nights
4. Have City Attorney provide system of checks and balances for the Department.
5. Contract for LE services with McLeod County
-reviewed proposals for 40, 56, and 80 hours of coverage
-reviewed information from the Cities of Dassel, Mayer, Stewart, and Plato regarding their experiences with Contracting for LE services. (All expressed satisfaction with County LE services.)

Mayor Bebo and Clerk Venier reiterated that the City was not unhappy with the Current department it is the high turnover and lack of quality candidates for the position that is prompting the City to look at all the options available.

Mayor Bebo recommended continuing the hiring process while the City considers its options.

Public Input:

Pat Fogarty: Wondered if the contract cost would increase. Chief Deputy Langenfeldt said the cost would be reevaluated at the end of contract period, during the contract the cost will remain the same.

Leon Kaczmarek: Spoke on behalf of the Maresh Funeral Home and expressed concern if Funeral Escorts and business checks would be covered. Sheriff Rehman reported that they would be willing to continue all of the services that the current department provides.

Gary Mallak: On behalf of the Legion concerned about business checks as well.

Brenda Jaques: Concerned about business checks as well.

Dorothy Schroeder: Expressed that she was happy with the current Department.

Sheriff Rehman and Chief Deputy Langenfeld: Reviewed contract proposal and assured those in attendance that the Sheriff’s Office would be able to provide the City with the services Silver Lake currently had. In addition, the SO is able to provide a wider variety of services due to a larger staff and would be better be able to ensure calls and investigations are followed up on in a timely manner. Prosecution services would be provided by the County Attorney at no additional cost to the City.
Sheriff Rehman also reported that they are not trying to convince the City to contract but only provided an option to the City.

Mayor Bebo told those in attendance that this meeting was to gather information so the Council can make an informed decision on the matter soon.

*A motion was made by Councilor Fogarty seconded by Councilor Johnson to continue the hiring process for two more weeks.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Councilor Johnson seconded by Councilor Mason to adjourn this special meeting of the Silver Lake City Council.
Vote for: Unanimous
Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.*

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Kerry Venier, Clerk/Treasurer