

**Study Session Meeting – Council Chambers, Ely City Hall
November 28, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Novak called the November 28, 2017 Study Session to order at 5:30pm.

PRESENT: Council Members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, D.Forsman, and Mayor Novak

ABSENT: None

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS:

A. Addition III. B. George Burger – Update on City Emergency Management
Addition A added without objection.

REQUEST TO APPEAR

A. Bradley Peterson, Senior Attorney/Lobbyist Flaherty & Hood, P.A.

Bradley Peterson from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) gave an presentation on the CGMC and the Legislative goals for the CGMC.

Mayor Novak recessed the Study Session at 5:58pm for the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing.

Mayor Novak reconvened the Study Session at 6:11pm.

Mayor Novak asked Bradley Peterson about the Voluntary Assessment for the CGMC Environmental Action Fund that the CGMC would like cities to partake in.

Peterson stated that the CGMC has a goal to raise \$150,000 through the voluntary assessment. The assessment money goes toward and increasingly challenging environmental regulatory landscape for the Greater Minnesota Cities. The Environmental Action Fund continues to support vital legislative, legal and regulatory efforts by the CGMC to advocate for the environmental interests of Greater Minnesota Cities. Peterson stated that an example of when this money was used was when he went and testified about the Wild Rice Standards. Peterson stated that the League of Minnesota Cities is not doing this kind of work.

Kess stated that the Ely Utilities Commission was concerned that the CGMC was only working on the phosphorus issues.

Peterson stated that is only one of the issues that they are working on. Putting pressure on the MPCA is one of their main focuses.

Langowski suggested rolling the Voluntary Assessment for the Environmental Action Fund into the annual CGMC dues rather than having a voluntary assessment, and then all the cities are paying

Kess asked how much the dues would go up if the Voluntary assessment was put in the dues. Peterson stated approximately 10%.

Peterson thanked the council for their time.

B. George Burger – Update on City Emergency Management

Burger thanked the council for the City Emergency Management position and for passing the resolution on the National Incident Management System.

Burger stated he has been communicating with other Emergency Management individuals and they are guiding him along. Burger commented that Ely needs to update our Emergency Management System; the goal is to make it more uniformly between the top agencies down to the local agencies.

Burger stated that he has been studying and getting certification through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to become an Emergency Management Director.

The City of Ely's current plan is outdated, cluttered, and has retirees names in it as the contact individuals. Burger commented that the current plan is quite large and the new plan will be smaller and in two parts, a plan and then a resource manual for additional information. Burger stated that Mt. Iron updated their Emergency Management Plan in 2014 so he has been referencing that to update the City of Ely's plan.

Burger stated that he would like a yearly review with the Council, St Louis County, and a Peer Review of the City of Ely's Emergency Management Plan once it is completed and every four years have the plan reviewed by the State.

Burger would also like to bring back quarterly meetings with the Ely Area Emergency Preparedness Group.

Clerk Langowski stated that the wind damage last July was declared a state disaster area and he commends Burger for taking on the Emergency Management Position.

A.Forsman said that he has always felt comfortable in this community since we always come together to help each other out, but this will help our community out even more. At the Hospital, Boundary Waters Care Center and the Clinic they have been focusing on a campus wide Emergency Management System. A.Forsman also commended Burger for taking this position on.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURN

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff
Deputy Clerk