

Approved Meeting Minutes
City of Cromwell, Carlton County, MN
Public Hearing
November 28, 2012 6:00pm

A public hearing of the City of Cromwell was held on November 28, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Cromwell Park Pavilion. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the proposed Fire District of the Cromwell and Wright Fire Departments.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Clark.

Present: Mayor: Samuel A Clark
Council Members: Warren Peters, Tom Borglund, Lisa Lund, Ray Lally

Absent:

Others Present: Steve Bridge, Fire Chief ; Mike Peterson ; 17 members of the public

- Mike Peterson presented tax income and levy amount information per capita for the County, State, and the Nation. Documents were passed out to everyone for review.
- Steve Bridge presented the Cromwell/Wright Fire District Strategic Planning Assessment. Copies of the plan were passed out to everyone for review.
 - Training increases when you have a District. Ex. Cloquet Fire District has increased their training by 200%
 - Same tax rate would be paid by each township
 - Both Fire Depts. are shrinking- Cromwell only has about 21 members and 3 are retiring. Wright has about half that and may lose their Fire Dept. if they don't make a district.
 - Fire Dept. is underfunded- FEMA has helped but can't always be counted on
 - ISO Rating is a concern. The better your ISO is the better your insurance rates will be. It is costly to maintain a high rating. (Cromwell is currently at a 5.) Considerable discussion on ISO ratings and what they mean.
- Public discussion – Q & A
 - Discussion on location and number of fire hydrants within the city and dry hydrants out of the city limits
 - Discussion on how taxes will be affected and spread out over the townships
 - Discussion on the board that will be formed for the District- one member from each township or city will represent that area. Unknown at this time who the board will be, the decisions they will make, and how those decisions will affect taxes.
 - Annual Ambulance District meeting is in March- Information should be put together for that meeting to present about the proposed District.
 - Question was asked if it is important to keep maintaining a high ISO rating since it is so costly to maintain. Discussion followed.
- Additional meetings will be held in the near future where more information will be available from the City Attorney and/or City Auditor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Clark
Clerk/Treasurer