



City of Blue Earth

Council Meeting

Date: 3-5-12

Agenda Heading: Administrator's Report

Information: The lease squad car was returned to the State on Thursday. Before being returned all of the lighting and decals were removed. The light bar may be able to be used by the Fire Department for upgrading some of their vehicles. The Fire Department is also looking at the Expedition for possible use within that department. The repairs needed may exceed the value to the department.

Faribault County is speaking with Region 9 about developing a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the County and is interested in incorporating the Cities of Faribault County into the planning. Region 9 will be appearing before the County Commissioners at 10:00 on March 20 to present the idea and have discussion. I would like to have Blue Earth participate as this would be a cost effective way to achieve a large piece of the City Comprehensive Plan. I will attend the meeting.

Board of Appeal & Equalization Meetings are coming again in April. The date Blue Earth has been given is April 25 at 4:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar for that date. I will remind Council at the first meeting in April.

The HRA has developed slightly different Housing Rehabilitation Guidelines for the 2012 program. Linsey Warmka attended a Small Cities Development Grant writing class and learned that the funds will be more difficult to get in the future, with stricter uses and regulations, and there will be fewer funds available. With that in mind the HRA Board has worked to make the program more self-supporting by working with other entities to provide certain funding and to set more requirements for owner payback into the program. The funds will still diminish over time, but this last year saw almost all of the funds being used by property owners of the first level that required no or little payback to the program. In 2012 the first level of funding, with the lowest income requirements will need to payback 50% of the money received. The community meeting to ask questions and start the application process will be March 22 at 5:15 at the Public Safety meeting room.

The many groups that use the Fairgrounds and the Parks met for their annual meeting on Feb. 29. The meeting was well attended by the Historical Society, ball team representatives, the Chamber and a representative from the Boy Scouts. The park's use is starting in April with the school ball teams starting practice and runs through October. City Hall keeps a schedule of all of the events and activities, so remember to check with Sue if you want to know if a park is available or when an activity is taking place. This year the county fair and Giant Days are a week early and back to

back. This is also a year for the Boy Scout Jamboree which expects to bring over 600 to the fairgrounds. There were no issues to report.

2012 City of Excellence Awards – This year’s theme is “Maintaining and Improving City Infrastructure”. I would like to suggest that an application be submitted for an award in the 5,000 population and under for the City’s development of the use of a Street Fund and companion Assessment Policy, because I feel these could be a template for other communities to use in maintaining and replacing infrastructure. The LMC conference this year will be hosted by Duluth June 20 – 22.

Action: