

City of Conrad Council Meeting-20260804_233513UTC-Meeting Recording

August 4, 2026, 11:35PM

1h 22m 16s

C **Carrie** 3:11
Are you down?

JW **Jerad Walston** 4:55
Help.
There's Miss Carrie.

C **Carrie** 4:58
Hello!
Can you hear me, Jerad?
Mhm.
I heard David at the start, and now I can't hear you.
Something get muted on your end.

JW **Jerad Walston** 5:47
You're coming through a lot of people here.

C **Carrie** 5:49
Oh, there you are. I hear you now.

JW **Jerad Walston** 5:53
Here we go.
Yeah.
Now, my son-log is family, we're back in Tennessee this last weekend and live in Spokane.
They're leaving Spokane? They live in Spokane. But throughout Tennessee, you look at some sort of school for their son.
And they're driving, so it's gonna be a couple days to get back here to find out, sure, what kind of shade their stuff is in.
Hello, you know.

Good morning, ma'am. Or good afternoon.

That's just the nice thing.

Can I talk to my neighbors to them?

Totally understanding of the crash field.

They said they didn't really notice any smoke until they went to waste, so did they?

Yeah.

Oh boy, look at those macho.

Yeah.

Yeah.

I like that guy.

Why? Why should people do the things they do?

You know, some people do because they get arousal on them. Well, that's true.

Some people say they have done it because they can get work out of it.

Thank you.

Hey, give a chainsaw and cut down trees.

No, but all three houses that my son all had over there near the Western Division Street.

You didn't sign up. Oh, we originally.

Okay.

I.

Gary, did you get the thing that Julie sent to sign for the claims?

C **Carrie** 9:22

Yep, yep, I've signed.

JW **Jerad Walston** 9:24

Okay.

Okay, very good.

Oh.

Mum.

Okay.

Here's Miss Jodi.

to be here and all that. Yeah, yeah.

Right.

The last meeting when Kevin made the comment about the new fireman and that

truck with our manual transmission, right? We can't drive the stick, yeah. We can't drive the stick, yeah. Don't my neighbors know that Tully. So I mentioned kind of like it is what Cameron said. I said, would that have been you? I've got my CD.

Hi, McKenzie. Thank you. How are you doing? I'm doing good. Good.

Still there, still working, still alive. So, what's that? Still there, still working, still alive.

Still working?

One Dr. store worker. Is what? One Dr. store worker. I never work. I don't use it.

Oh.

Not, it's not a Mac thing, OK.

Could you sign in there, sir, please? What are you doing here?

What?

Thought I'd show up for one. OK.

Everybody meet Darryl.

Hello, everybody. Hi, Darryl.

Would he just need a signature? You're hanging.

Help.

Right.

Thank you.

Yeah, maybe that when you're ready to be a mayor. What's that? Jerad could be a mayor.

Are you going yourself? I wish I could know you. No, I'm done.

Kim.

I have no idea, Sadhguru.

And Missy Hart, yeah. Kim said she looked at it yesterday. I've tried to, which we just lost a couple of times, and is either busy or...

Go in the opposite direction. I almost had him about a week ago. He was coming out of the combo, but he got away too fast.

I think.

Yesterday, yesterday, was in a bad day, and it's a bad day.

Ohh.

So, what was this?

Go.

Yeah.

Singh.

Chief. How are you? I'm good. Hey, Kevin. How are you?

Next one, and then it will be great.

Thank you for all your work. Oh, you're welcome.

Anyway, did he start school? Carrie, have he started school yet?

Okay.

She not able to hear it.

Pretty girl. Yeah, that's what's going on. All real.

Sorry, you know, I ask questions. You guys know why I ask questions. I don't. I don't.

When I tell people about Jodi, I say, the very first day I met Jodi, I told her I went in there and...

This to watch this, and I went here and here, and Jodi looked me in the eye and said, you are gonna have to get over it.

So, I was like, alright, I was like, alright.

Well, you know, I can take that.

So, what I need to do in my class?

Mhm.

One more, one more.

Six people.

Hey, Cortana.

So, over 70s to do that.

How are you? Good. Good. It is nice something. It is nice something. Yes. Nice is about 10 below.

I'll take, I'll take this for you. I mean, those two on the curves.

No long words to work on. Yeah, but it is true.

That's a good thing.

To.

Bing.

And you?

I've got Jeff Randy tomorrow, so just went absolutely inward.

Hey, Meryl. Hey, lose some boys.

Yeah.

Who received the Jesus? Thanks. Don't give him any slack.

Yeah, I said you must have given up already if you were sitting right behind you.

There we go.

You guys go.

Yeah, sure.

Yes, and no. Yes, and no. Yes, and no. To go to school.

Yeah.

Do you know?

Thought about walking down when they came back, and then I get it, I get it.

No, no.

Bharat, Singh, and Singh.

Yeah.

Singh.

You know, probably the place went down.

Makkumar Video, M.A.M.A.

Yeah, but check in the queue. So, it's, it's.

Skype.

Thank you. Thank you. And we hope some boys have been distracting that Sunday morning, and I'll talk you all way down yesterday afternoon.

Through somebody else. OK. No, you don't. All right, though. Got it. Yeah, OK. Still have that. Yeah, that's.

Right, right, right. I mean, that's one of the things we're going to get back to, yeah, the elevator team, so I have five months, so that's what.

Fine, my God, I think it's a good thing.

So, we're going to go back to that.

I love India.

And, listening.

And, listening, here on the track.

Right.

Hello, Daniel. Happy.

Chanu.

No, I don't need to. Will everyone please stand?

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. All council members are present for you in person, one via Zoom. I move that we approve the minutes as presented.

Second. Any discussion on that?

Always favorite.

Motion carries. Everyone had a chance to look at the claims. I move to approve the

claims and payroll as presented.

Have a second.

C **Carrie** 25:52

Nothing.

JW **Jerad Walston** 25:53

Oh, sorry. Carrie just did. She did. Any discussion? All those in favour? Motion carries.

C **Carrie** 25:58

The.

JW **Jerad Walston** 26:06

We don't have any water contracts tonight. We don't have any correspondence.

Public comment. Is there anyone out there in the audience that wishes to speak?

Please, you got 5 minutes.

Jerad Barker. I recently, well, not recently, I guess, about two years ago, moved back to Conrad. I grew up in Conrad. And I have some concerns over weeds.

The Foxtail and the Kosher on the east side of town is out of control. And my yard is, you know, when I got there, the yard hadn't really been taken care of. And

I got it reestablished, and now I just have foxtail seed everywhere in it. Yeah. And then later on in the year, I'll be collecting.

Did you get rid of the coach? Because I haven't figured out how to do it myself. No, well, you know, I go out there and I try to pick it up. You can't pick that stuff up, or not the Kosha, but the Foxtel. You can't, but it's out of control.

And I don't know, I mean, it's from Front Street, Claire over to at least Washington.

And I mean, it's terrible. And it's not going to get any better. I mean, it's pretty much considered, they're both noxious. They are, one's a noxious grass. But even along the railroad, they're not doing anything with it. I mean, and a lot of them are

Commercial properties, even though there's a lot of...

personal properties that are bad too. On one good point I would like to say, I'd like to compliment, I was going to come back in, come here about a year ago with a ditch problem along solid in Washington. It was stagnant for like

Two months, and I had a friend die last night, so that was a conservative. This year it was all good drink, well, but again, coach is growing up, of course, and there's a

foxtail right next to it as well, but I would like to...

compliment you that on that. And I've called the city twice to make a complaint about, I don't know who my neighbor is, but that's 20 North Montana Street and what it takes to get somebody to vote. If somebody does his front of it, I guess, but his driveway's full of kosher, the backyard's like 2 feet tall and turn it brown. I've called June 23rd, July 16th, and

I don't know what it takes to. Well, weed, there's a weed ordinance. That's the only tool we have. Is that correct, Dave? That's really our only tool. Yeah, and the particular property that he's speaking of, yeah, we told them they mowed the front, they didn't mow the back, so then we sent them a weed letter, so that one is coming up.

So if they don't take care of it, we'll be able to take care of it. But according to that weed ordinance, we don't have to let them know. That's why we changed that. That's true. If it's a repeat, because of repeatable. Yeah, I know which one you're talking about. Yeah, I don't know. For some reason they hired somebody, but they're done. I don't know. I was told.

just to mow the front. Everything else, the driveway, and I live at 215 4th Avenue, and I have the same problem with my neighbors. They grew to foxtail. They mowed it. It got blown all into my yard. So now I'm dealing with foxtail. And then the other one big place is the elevator. Well, yeah, that's one of the worst ones right now is that elevator.

where the other goes, but if I just wondered about that, and just one other thing, I moved back, you know, and I didn't see all that stuff when I moved back because I bought the place in April, but you know, and I don't pay attention to some of the other stuff, but within like 3 blocks, I have three to four places that have multiple junk vehicles with tires and I don't know if that's a nuisance, falls under the nuisance thing too. And one of them is a commercial property, you know. I mean, I take my automobiles there, but it's sometimes it looks like it's getting less and then pretty soon it's full again.

You know, I know that's a personal property, but it is an eyesore. And I don't know, I'd like to call Conrad my hometown, but then I look around at what's happened with all the weeds and the...

the junk vehicles, you go over to the port, but I guess it's called the Port Authority. That's some nasty stuff over there, but I'm just wondering what some of the policies are on that. I know that we can't take action on that, but those are for just moving

back.

You know, I've met a lot of good people here. There are good people here. I just see that. I don't know. And I know it's hard to, when it's a small community, to enforce some things, but I think some things need to be worked on. That's my opinion.

We have addressed some of the stuff there on the other side, but what happens is, well, zero in on one place, they just move it to another, and then we're starting over again. We've played that whack-a-mole game several times. The weeds we can address a little more readily and then send the letters out until they have to vote, or we're going to do it until we're going to charge them.

Work.

Those are probably the two biggest tools we have.

I appreciate you coming in to those. No. Thanks for listening. Thank you. You're very welcome.

the water path behind Prairie View. So I mean, it looks like they sprayed it, kind of, but it's... Yeah, well, I have some personal experience there. Ray and I actually sprayed all of those in the trees. And I don't know what it takes to kill them.

nuts. We ended up pulling a bunch of trees around the iris garden there. And they did spray pathway itself.

That seems to be getting better, but it's just cautious, just terrible. Be a bad year this year. I fight it. I know. Okay, moving on to Department 34 Police Department. You're up now.

Connor at least were meant had.

1048 calls for service, 795 security checks, 253 calls for service. We had

Twenty-six traffic warnings, 5 citations, one arrest, and six traffic stops.

We have had an influx of vagrants coming through town. We're trying to mitigate that as quickly as possible. We have had 25 agency assists and 24 dog and cat holes.

Any questions for Chief Lund?

C **Carrie** 33:42

Are the vagrants causing any concerns, Andy?

JW **Jerad Walston** 33:43

The.

So, all depending on how they're...

how they're acting and reacting. A lot of times we shuttle them off pretty quick.

If they're intoxicated, we think they're going to be a mess, if they're going to be a problem to society. We make sure that they move on one way or another. We have been giving transport to destinations they want to get to. That's not happening a bunch, but a few times.

So, we're trying to mitigate the problem before it starts.

C **Carrie** 34:20

Where are they staying?

JW **Jerad Walston** 34:23

So usually we catch them on the first time they're here, first day they're here, they usually get on a bus and end up here or they get taxied here by the sheriff's office or possibly Tool County, surrounding counties. So that's a kind of a drop spot.

C **Carrie** 34:43

Well...

JW **Jerad Walston** 34:45

Well then, don't you drop them off someplace, too?

Usually, I try to take them to the destination they want to go, if they want to, if they need to go to Great Falls to the center for.

a place to stay, that's where we take them. And it gets us two things happen. The public here is safe, nothing more is going to come of it, and it's mitigating the problem.

So if they want to go to Kalispell, no, they aren't going to do that. I might try to get a shuttle and talk to highway patrol or something like that and have a shuttle there, but generally that doesn't work too well. So

But my major concern is calling that.

C **Carrie** 35:30

Yeah.

JW **Jerad Walston** 35:31

More questions?

C **Carrie** 35:33

No, that was just concerning.

JW **Jerad Walston** 35:33

Good.

Dave, how it works? Yes.

Yeah, as mentioned, we a lot of weed control. Yeah, a lot of weed control in our wastewater plant, the water plant, so at the lake over there around all of our facilities, really. So yeah, weeds have been pretty bad this year.

We started dura patch holes around town today. Our pavement company will be here this month to pave patch holes around town, primarily in areas where either we've had a water leak or replace the hydrant. We've had a couple entities come on to our wastewater plant to evaluate it.

Evaluate the equipment for the wastewater project, so...

Yeah, they've just come out, looked at a few of our key pieces out there, our influent pumps, everything on our head works from our fine screen to our grit remover, so just kind of looking at the condition.

Contractors are scheduled to come back August 13th for the stormwater project.

They have like 3 pages long list of stuff that we have for them.

New playground equipment has been completed at the pool park. New install on playground equipment at Ballfield will begin this week, actually tomorrow. Northwest Energy contact me today. They will, they want to begin trimming some trees from street light wires down some avenues. I said absolutely.

I do believe it's their right to maintain the trees around the light wires. I believe that's how it's written up. So I did offer to help them chip, so they're just going to bring some branches down, put them in the boulevard. We'll come by them when we have time and we'll chip them up just to keep

Keep everything tidy.

I have had received questions about a water wastewater plants online security. Our tech company for our SCADA remote controls is MEG and it's based out of Helena.

We must manually adjust chemicals at the water plant, so there is no there's no chemical controls online for our plant, our chlorine and everything. You have to physically go there.

and set those. We also have myself and a water operator checking online probably

about once every hour or something just to make sure everything is looking okay. So if we do, if we were at PAC, we do have the ability to drop the control system and reboot the program and closing any back doors.

they might have left any hackers, so they can't get back in. And then BD while we're doing that, we can also run the plant manually, so the system does, if the system had to be dropped, so we can control everything, all the water plant stuff offline if we had to.

And then I've been working with Ricotta. It's a security company for cameras and stuff. Looking at a few cameras at the pool area. They have sent me a trial camera to see if it meets their needs. I just got to hook it up and try it out. I have another meeting with them tomorrow. So we'll go over some of the software on it. They are a little bit pricier. They, I mean,

They're a good camera. It might be a little more than we need, but we haven't gotten that far yet. But some of the things cameras can do nowadays, it's amazing.

It kind of blew my mind.

And that was just in the park area or just in. Yeah, I wanted to start kind of, I think it seems our initial place of concern for me is the pool parking area where everything has been happening, where the cops have been called a few times this summer. So we could get two of the smaller cameras, get pretty good coverage to cover the parking lot area.

and the splash part going this way. I think each camera was around, I think, \$1,700.

But then, of course, you have a subscription because it's all cloud-based. So if anything were to happen, you're able to go online and see. So just still working to see if it's really cool cameras. Might be a little overshadow for our situation.

Any other questions for Dave? Yeah, just curious, do you know how many fire hydrants are down right now? I think we got a list of four, I believe. Yeah, and then we're going to go through and get them to some replaces for all those. Well, I knew there was some. Yeah, broke a few and were flushing them last year. So, and the ones that are breaking, as you know, they're 19.

Six feet, right? Yeah, they're the old, old, old models, so that just comes with time.

That is all that old, really. Yeah. Sorry, Kevin. Thank you. Sorry. Yeah, that's right.

Sorry. We are not that old. Sorry.

And you notice that over Kyle Park was kind of between you and me. Yeah. Over on the south edge of that, there's that evergreen or conifer, whatever you want to call it. Okay. That's.

Got a nice tan color to it. Like it's dead. Oh, I'll take a look at it. No, I wasn't aware. So what is the order again, Darryl? Well, it's on the south edge, but it's kind of like between the street and the alley. Oh, okay. You can't miss it. Do you think it's dead dead? Well, everything else is green, including the grass. Okay.

Yeah, we'll take a look at it. We might just have to take it out there and replant something else. Thanks for letting me know. You're welcome. My daughter's supposed to be doing that when she goes over there, but she's not doing her job very well.

Any other questions today?

Are we going for a Tiffany, Europe?

Well, I don't have a whole lot since I was just here last meeting, but I do have July statistics. It does show that we're up 33% for library bids, that's 36% for program attendees and 23% items circulated from last year. I'd like to say that we are performing extremely well, which we are. However, last year we were closed for an HVAC project for two weeks. So

That's why our numbers are up. Our summer programming will be wrapping up. The last day of story time in the park will be Wednesday, August 19th. After that, we'll move back to story hour two times a week at the library, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. And then the upcoming outreach event that we do is face painting at National Night Out, which is always pretty

That is all I have.

Yeah.

Next on the agenda, discussion and action on the purchase of a new fire truck.

Who wants to handle it? Pete or Jodi? It don't matter. I've been working with Jodi on this. Jodi can kind of give you a load down with our budget. Just so everybody here, we weren't here last week. The fire department is willing to put up \$100,000 of our own money. We have approximately 100 and

We don't know for sure in our CIP. So the remaining balance when it's all said and done is 300,000, and that's what we're looking at and how we would pay for that.

Jodi, I'm going to turn it over to you. All right. So I did the, they did cut about \$4,000 out of their budget. And then there's 19,000 from the CIP that we put in each year that they would not do that. They bought all the equipment that they feel they need for the next 10 years. And then also there is there is the money.

that you used the 15,000 that you used to send to the county there at that that you didn't do last year, we still budgeted there, and

And...

that that are those are the most evident spots that I saw that said I think and that would be the 15,000. There have been some cuts and we are going to get a little bit more in our levies this year, this year from last year.

15,000, I think I didn't print it out. I was going to from last year as well. So That would be, I think that you could pretty, you would be okay to cover that payment. I think the payment is going to be, according to that form, it's going to be about \$38,000 a year.

Yeah, and that's from the private funding. Yeah, it was 4.75, but it's fixed. Now, you could take a look at the intercap, but that's been as high as 5.75 or 5.5 last year. So, and that's variable.

So, um...

My recommendation would be we take a look at the one that's fixed. There's also, they were talking about when they sell the fire trucks that they were going to sell, there would probably be, what was that, 30,000? We're taking 20, 30, maybe more, maybe less, but in that ballpark. So at that point in time, we could possibly make a balloon payment, that would be something we would have to ask the company if they would, you know, what they would do with that. I don't know without talking to them. And I did not call them until after you guys made your decision.

And just so you guys do know, there's going to be roughly \$34, \$3,500 worth of graphic work done to the truck. We're willing to pay for that, the fire department itself. So we would take care of any further cost to get it here, whatever. Well, there won't be anything over the 300,000.

we're willing to cover the rest of it to get it here and get it in service. And one of the biggest things just for the public or whatever to know, you know, our ISO ratings, your homeowner's insurance, to keep up for, we have to keep things updated. And our newest truck is 30 years old. The one this would replace is 36 years old.

This year.

And I said it before, I don't know if everybody's here, but this truck, if it's bought next year, will be around \$876,000. It's one that's left over next year, the new emissions come out, and that's the price they added to the trucks. So the payment.

for 10 years on this amortization schedule that they did send, the completed send, it would be 38,456. And does that, we make just one lump sum every year? Yes, that's what it looks like here, and that's what most of those big commercial loans are just

on here.

Ten years.

I move to go ahead with the purchase of the fire truck as discussed.

It needs to be more, something more. So it went at the 4.75. It is saying, let me tell you exactly what it is. You're going to put that in the, or we don't have to. I'm just curious if we should. As discussed with the financing options and.

City covering the 300,000. I made a balance that work for you.

What's the bush gonna be? Buy the fire truck, buy the fire truck. OK, for \$300,000.

Second. I did. Oh, you already did? I already did. Oh, oh, oh. Any further discussion?

All those in favor? Aye. Excellent.

C **Carrie** 47:59

Bye.

JW **Jerad Walston** 48:03

Thank you guys very much. And I can tell them right away then I'll have to work with Jodi because I'm not sure how we're doing this. If we write the city a check for 100,000 and you write a check out of the CIP or how we're going to do this, but I'll give it to Jodi tomorrow. But mainly they needed to know so they can stop paying the interest on the truck.

So, for sure, I can call him when we leave here, and I'll get with Jodi, and we'll figure out how to send those monies over there. Very good. Thank you very much. Should we have time assignment? Should we have time assignment?

C **Carrie** 48:44

When do you think you'll get that truck then, Kevin?

JW **Jerad Walston** 48:46

I think you are.

Once that. Yeah, Kevin, why don't you go?

C **Carrie** 48:49

When do you think you'll take that truck? Take ownership of the truck?

JW **Jerad Walston** 48:53

We.

We can get it immediately. It's in Big Fork. It's our, I've already seen it twice at conventions. He would drive it over tonight if we needed it, but he wants to get the graphics on there. Can we just have a suggestion on our agenda request saying that we're doing discussion action now? Sign in the bottom.

C **Carrie** 49:00

Okay.

Okay.

JW **Jerad Walston** 49:15

System automatic, the power steering, the better have. You better not keep teaching your guys how to drive stick. Yeah, there you go. I hope that can happen. Tara was a driver's ed teacher. What's that? Were you a driver's ed teacher? We can teach you.

Didn't have to taste it. OK, moving on to the patience though. Item number 7, the discussion action to turn on the link with water, sewer, and weed mowing charges to the county for to be put on the tax rolls. I move to approve the turnover of the one with water, sewer, and weed mowing charges to Bondare County.

Thank you.

C **Carrie** 49:59

Second.

JW **Jerad Walston** 50:01

We got a second. All those in favor? Aye. Okay. Anything after this list won't get to go on until next year. Right. Like there's that update. I was saying there's one more deal similar to this that we're going to see this year, but on this particular item, that's it. Yeah.

C **Carrie** 50:04

Hi.

JW **Jerad Walston** 50:22

Ms.

Okay.

Next on the agenda, next year we have the misfortune, I guess, of having to do a federal audit. And Toronto Associates have agreed to do that for us. It's not cheap. It will cost us \$3,100. But it is something we have to do. And just a matter of fact, we have an auditor that's willing to do it is. monumental. I last, well, two years ago, I spent days trying to track down another auditor until Jodi finally convinced strong to go back and. Some of that too, because it is a federal audit and because it is because of the project, some of the money can come out of the project. So it won't all be, it won't all be coming out of like the general fund or whatever. It will be able to come out of your grant loan money. I know that doesn't make it much easier, but yes. It spreads it out a little bit. Yeah, it does help a little bit. Can I get a motion to approve the? Move to approve the Strong and Associates contract for the 2020, 25, 25th audit. Correct. Second. Any discussion on that? All those in favor? Aye. That carries.

C **Carrie** 51:57
Hi.

JW **Jerad Walston** 52:00
Okay, um...

The next thing on the agenda is the discussion and action on the chairs dispatch approval. If, with council's permission, I'd just like to give you a quick update on the land swap thing, and we can go back to that. Nobody has any objection to that. As you know, we've been negotiating with MDT about... selling to the industrial park lots. One of the requirements that we had to have was we had to get an appraisal. And so we did. And unfortunately, our appraisal did not meet their standards. So we are going, we're still in the running. And we have basically till the end of the year to get this done. But it looks as though we're going to have to do have another appraisal done. Probably MDT suggested a new appraisal from One of their certified people. which we were aware that they had that sort of thing. So, rather than trying to fix this, who said our appraisal doesn't meet their standards,

the Department of Transportation, and why?

Uh, Daniel, uh, there was...

Errors.

There was a significant number of errors in the appraiser's report. OK, and...

Like that, I looked at him.

There certainly were quite a few. It wasn't just one or two. It was throughout the report. Okay. So that's the reason we're there. We could try and get this one fixed, but I'm not sure that it's fixable. So we're looking at doing one of theirs. So who did it? I'm sorry? Who did it? Stevens and Company.

Tom Stevens of Stevens and Company out in Missouri. And it's two lots, not just that first. The first two. The first two. Yeah.

C **Carrie** 53:59

Who's paying for the appraisal?

JW **Jerad Walston** 53:59

Yeah, unfortunately.

Well, we are and we did. Hey, Daniel just today transmitted an e-mail with our money back because they didn't fulfill the requirements.

We'll see where that goes.

C **Carrie** 54:13

Good.

JW **Jerad Walston** 54:17

Okay.

Going back to the sheriff's dispatch contract.

I'm not sure where to start. We...

Got a letter from, as you know, on July 27th from the actually end by the intersheriff with a proposal.

which was a good deal, more palatable than the first one at \$77,000.

So I think that's a good place to start. Personally, looking at it, a little concerned about the length of the contract. I think maybe we ought to think about shortening it up a bit.

You guys are the ones that need to make a decision on this. So on the open up

discussion, Daniel will help us as we as.

We need to have his assistance, and that's why he is here tonight.

Why do we think we need to shorten it if it's the same one we've used for the past 20 years? Why are we, why do you think? Well, typically we've done it for three years.

Well, and that's what I mean, we've had, we've used this one contract for the past three years. Why do we, why do you think we need to shorten it?

So we've had a four-year contract in the past, and the Sheriff's Department has proposed A7 year contract. Oh, this time. Yeah. Except the seven-year is only increasing 10% every year, which

I don't think that might be a good thing versus.

I think the numbers.

Or, I mean, I the numbers are a lot better, yeah, and I think it's...

Me personally, I think it's something that we need to go forward with, but I mean, that's me personally, especially with these numbers, I'm afraid if we...

dig in any deeper. So how do you get out? Is there causes to get out for various reasons? I mean, most contracts can be broken, correct? Yeah, right attorney. There's always, you know, the idea.

Efficient breach, it makes more sense to breach a contract, but continue with it. If they're not performing the services they're supposed to, we can get out of it. The contract just requires us to give notice.

That's 30 days or something. Yeah.

Without a reason, Chief. Yeah, I was just really curious, and then I wasn't here, but if you were going to run a dispatch center separate from the city.

I don't know if you guys really realize what expense that's going to come to fire department and ambulance, because we run on total different frequency. So you guys are going to put in radios enabled to pay just. Then when they dial 911, I'm not sure how you guys are going to know what's the, how the 911 is going to know what's the city and not a county run.

Because the city that we have separate pagers from city and rural. And the ambulance crew, of course, would have to know if it's a city run would have to be paged from the city. You got to have tones and filters and everything to run pagers. While the expense of that is astronomical,

Plus, we're now hooked in. We got now put out of Canada, and we have our own computers over there, and we're tied in with them. And so you have to trip theirs in order to set up our cell phones.

So that would all have to be added. Plus, not that it's a big deal, but somebody's going to have to run a line from the siren and stuff, because a lot of guys don't even realize that, but siren only goes off for city fires. That is hardwired into the courthouse. So that's going to have to be hardwired in. And I just wanted to throw that out there to make sure that you guys know that the expense wasn't just the dispatch.

I don't know how you'd separate the 911 if you're in town or at my house. I don't know how that 911 is going to go to either city or county. The city police, when you're just talking on open radio and the sheriff's department, I totally get it, but I hope you guys realize that you have to run all this page capability, and that is not cheap.

and you're going to have to come in and you're going to have to get all of our tones to set our stuff off and set the radios off in Canada. All that is done now through the courthouse. So I don't know, you'd have to have a tremendous radio guy, but I don't know how you would, I don't understand how you would ever even be able to do that. The cost would be astronomical.

This isn't just a dispatch talking. We're talking about they're going to have to run all the phones.

Just throwing that out there just in case nobody else did do that or step up and say how the fire department, how we're contacted and how the ambulance is contacted. And maybe somebody here knows how they cut 911 off, but I don't know of any way in the world. Because when you're going down the highway, just north of us, still in Ponderay County, dial 911 is going to go to Tool County.

then they got to call our dispatcher. So I'm sure everybody encountered if they call in the fire, we need to be rolling, you know, in less than 3 minutes for our ISO ratings and stuff. You're talking about 3 to 4 minutes just for the dispatcher to even be able to get to pay us. If the county is going to get 911, call a city dispatcher.

and then have to trip all of our pagers, just throwing that out there so that you have an idea. I mean, no, that's good to know, because that's I, like you said, I thought about that either. I mean, no, you're just taking talking on the radio, and that's what we do when we get to the trucks, but to get a hold of us. Well, you said the siren and Our pagers, our cell phones, all that has to be activated. So all that would have to be in position.

And I can tell you right now, find the dispatchers.

is very, very tough. And I'm not sitting on for the county. I don't know nothing about

the numbers. I'm just saying they're probably going to have to raise the wages way up because dispatchers are probably the least paid people around. And the training and the stuff they have, and they have a couple right now that were really struggling with, really struggled. I mean, they need a couple more.

And they have no way of advertising much because it's one of the least paying jobs in town. So I'm just throwing that out there. They get 25 plus bucks an hour. They make pretty good money. Yeah, they do.

Well, the only problem I have with this thing is are the figure amounts, because the first quarter we got from the sheriff was that it was \$77,000 for a year.

And then we get this one where, well, it's 35,000. I am good with county commissioners, and all we want you to do is basically just pay for a part to pay for a dispatcher. Well, he's got on the back of this form that it's going to be \$77,000 for a part-time dispatcher. No, not.

On the front page. On the front page, the front page, we said 77 for full-time, but the part-time, which is right now.

You know, what I would like to see would be a number. Yeah, I mean, considering where we were at when I started, I mean, this is, to me, this is something that we can't. With the 35,000. Yeah. What is it? What was it last year? It was.

C **Carrie** 1:01:56
I.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:02:09
Twenty. So the thirty-five is a forty-eight percent increase. Oh, right. It was 11.

C **Carrie** 1:02:14
And why the jump? Why A 48% increase for this and then 10% after? What's involved with the 48% increase? Why?

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:02:25
to get to where a part-time dispatcher would be.
to cover the, so it would close the gap to covering the cost of a part-time dispatcher.
So where we're at wouldn't even cover.
The cost of a part-time dispatcher, or do you think they meant that that seventy-seven 1000 is? I think that's something full-time.

That's where I see it as. Keep in mind, they get \$39,000 in the 911 money because our part of 911. So there's. put it still. 77 is about \$16,000.

Don't do it.

With the second set. I move to move forward with the sheriff's dispatch proposal of a per the July 27th, 2026 letter.

I second it, but then I want to ask Daniel, are all of the other things that you had, we had concerns with, are they okay? Wasn't there something that...

So, the...

Yeah, so the only the only provision they were the two things they exchanged were the the the price per year, and then we had put in there that.

They're required to notify.

city police or any emergency emergency call that's within the city of Conrad or within the jurisdictional boundary of CPD, and they remove that.

They didn't say they wouldn't, but they didn't say they would. Yeah. The whole idea behind it is officer safety and emergency response. So if you've got a Conrad PD that's here within 5 miles of City Center and there's a call, then

Help just out in the county, and the county guy is...

out, you know, Timbuktu, wouldn't want to respond. And you know, that was the reason we put that in there. And that was actually a suggestion from somebody else that made sense. Yeah. So anyway. So being that this isn't a contract, it's a proposal, I mean, can you have that discussion with them?

To maybe get that back in or not, or yeah, yeah, so we can.

And also keep in mind that this was end by membership Bender.

Well, we don't know that, and then we can't assume that. Well, he says that in a second. You guys know authority. He's making this proposal. Well, it's signed by. He said, I would like, but we can't say that it was under Sheriff Bender that wrote this letter. I mean, it's signed by Sheriff's Group, or we can only say that he penned the letter. We can't. I assume that they both agree if their name. Yeah, but I mean, we can't say that Sheriff Rendor did not, or Sheriff's group did not like this, that it was, but here or there, he signed it. Exactly. So we don't, we can't speculate.

Has anybody thought about the 10%? I mean, 10% doesn't seem like much, but after year after year after year, it can pass pretty quickly. Compared to where we were at originally?

Well, yeah, we're at 3% or 4%. Well, to what they wanted, but they had originally in

the proposed contract. Well, the original contract was like 4%. But we were at 77, 76,000 to start. 300% of it.

Plus of what we have.

So, can part of that discussion be maybe four years, five years? I don't know, just...

I can't see it going down.

C **Carrie** 1:06:33

I just want to understand what's behind the numbers. I mean, simply to say that we're not in line with other communities in Montana, that doesn't make any sense. What do they need financially to support this contract? What do they need from the city of Conrad?

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:06:33

Yeah.

Sing.

What?

C **Carrie** 1:06:51

to support the contract or the agreement. 48% the first year and 10% thereafter, explain the reasoning behind that. What are the numbers to support that increase?

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:07:08

We have yet to get it.

C **Carrie** 1:07:08

The letter doesn't say.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:07:11

We have yet to get anything in concrete about what, how this increase is justified other than somebody else's wagon.

Ohh.

Does it need to be increased? Probably. The only question in my mind is by how much.

And if you take into consideration

The length of the contract.

We're gonna pay.

including our 911 funds, we're going to be paying over \$600,000 a year for 911 over this period. Excuse me, let me rephrase that. We'll be paying \$600,000 total at the end of the 7th year. So that's a lot of money.

C **Carrie** 1:08:06

I'm fine with the increase and to go off of what Kevin had said about the dispatchers and we, you know, we need to pay more. If that's how they're going to allocate the 10% to go to wage increases or to support more, I just want to understand the why behind their numbers.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:08:06

What is the top top of the world?
The.

C **Carrie** 1:08:26

How did they, I feel like they're just arbitrary numbers. Why? Why 48%? Why 10% each year after? What's the reason? That's what I'd like to know.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:08:39

Ms.

Well, when you look at this, so the first figure was a seventy-seven 1000, then we dropped down to thirty-five 1000, and then we were at 10% a year after that, after seven years, we're only sixty-two \$1000, so we're \$15,000 under this price after seven years. But then also, this also include dispatch and court.

Fire.

An ambulance, this, this is only for us.

Am I correct, Daniel? This is only for the sheriff or for the police department. Yeah, yeah. It's just, yeah. So you don't pay extra for us. So I mean, you're the city must cover us or they just cover us or what? We don't pay anything. Yeah, there's some jurisdictions who do, they actually charge that.

Give me the buyer separately.

And, and so, alright, you could assume that...

It's, well, it's being paid for, where it's allocated to.

The.

That's unclear, but as it, so if you look at there, the county's expense for dispatch historically.

The city has contributed about 6% of that total.

at 6.34% since 2010. And so nothing.

The city's payment has more or less matched the inflationary increase of the cost over at this match. So the question of why changed, I don't see anything that's changed other than the realization that other counties are charging more, because their expensive expenses haven't increased.

anywhere near what they're proposing, we increase by. So of the total dispatch calls, do you think the city of Conrad only has 6%? So I requested the calls for Conrad and for Monterey County and the total calls, and I still haven't heard back. It's been a couple.

Two 30 weeks.

In that public knowledge.

Well, I just am surprised it would be that low. I mean. Well, I don't know because I don't have a number. Right.

I would love to tell you, hey, this is a liar. This is what we do, this is what they do. This is the information I have, but I haven't got it.

Because it's almost half the population right here.

C **Carrie** 1:11:20

Good point, Karla.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:11:24

Well, the 48 is coming, the 48% is coming from, because exactly half of \$77,052 is 38,526. So you take off 2%, that's where the 35,000 is coming from, is that's pretty much half of what a full-time dispatcher would be. So that's where they I'm thinking they got the 48% increase.

C **Carrie** 1:11:50

But I'd like for them to itemize it out rather than us trying to guess where they're coming up with their numbers. Because again,

Like I said before, the only thing he's saying in here is to bring us in line with other communities. Well, that doesn't, that's just arbitrary numbers. What do you need to

be, what do you need from the city to make this work? What, how did you come up with your numbers? I don't think that's unreasonable to ask them that.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:12:22

If I may, we did ask them for that. This is the response they provided. And so I, I'll just, I'll just read what I, what I had sent them, or at least part of it.

I asked what I need help understanding is what has changed since the last agreement. If the county has experienced identifiable increases in staffing costs, equipment costs, technology expenses, service obligations, regulatory requirements, or other operating expenses. With dispatching for the city, please provide that information so I can put it in front of the council.

It would also be helpful to understand how the county calculated the amounts and proposal and whether the city would receive any additional or enhanced services.

And so the letter you have in front of you is the response to that request.

Five outstanding emotions.

I moved, she seconded, but then she had a discussion. You have to go forward. So, yeah, so right now all we're approving is the proposal, not the actual, I agree. I mean, I agree with Carrie, because

That's my same question. When they came with, we'll take over the police department and threw out a number. Well, give me what makes up that number. But I don't know. I don't know if there's any room to...

This may not be approved by the commission, even if we did approve it as it is. The author.

Says that.

I suppose to try. Once again, the only.

C **Carrie** 1:14:27

Are we at risk of him terminating our services, as he alluded to in the first paragraph?

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:14:33

He has threatened to do that. Kind of the irony of it all well would be that. But I don't think he threatened either. He just said he was afraid he was going to have to terminate it because we haven't come to an agreement.

to move forward. It wasn't saying that he was going to just terminate. It was he was afraid he was going to have to because we hadn't come to a decision. Well, there's

no rumor mill. It's all been a public meeting, the discussion of just trying to find the best solution for the city.

And at the initial one, that maybe wasn't the best solution.

Ohh.

I mean, we've done this several times in the county.

C **Carrie** 1:15:17

I would hope he can.

I just would hope he can understand that we have to, we have to give this due diligence. That's an incredible increase for us. We can't just, we just can't say, okay, fine, no problem. We have to.

We have to research it and look into it and understand it. I'm all in favor of wage increases, and I get that expenses have gone up. I understand that. But again, I want to understand what are the numbers behind the numbers he's given us.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:15:53

But it seems like every contract we have with the city, they've come with that up here and, you know, put that some part of negotiating. Right. You know, we set your price high and then we have room to negotiate.

So, can we refresh my memory on? I move to approve.

The.

Continuation of proposal proposals on the new contract with the amounts listed in the letter.

Alright, one second, so do you want that to be?

I think all the other terms appear to be agreed upon except for the exigent circumstance calls. You want that with or without that provision. Well, I'd like to see if it's.

I think it should get him back. Yeah, I think it should be with it. Yes. Okay. To see if we can get it back.

But I mean, I don't know if they're not or if they are understanding or they just don't want the city responding to any other calls.

I understand.

I'm not sure about their laundry. The whole thing is officer of public safety. You want the person that's the closest to the problem to get there. I don't care who it is. And most people don't care whether that's the sheriff shows up or the PD shows up, you

know, just so somebody shows up and they call 911.

Okay, all those in favor.

C **Carrie** 1:17:45
Bye.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:17:52

Any opposed?

Watch it first.

And all for cinema.

Yeah.

No need for an executive session. I did the update on MTD and
Last week or last time, we talked about having a budget meeting separate from the
council meeting. We never came to a decision on the dates. And we addressed that.
Video.

I'm guessing maybe an easy meeting would be best. We would like to have it before
the next council meeting, which will open the public hearing of the budget. Thank
you guys. Congratulations. Thank you guys very much. You're very welcome.

So, next Monday and Tuesday, I whatever.

Someone, who was that? Was that you? Okay, where are you going to be? I'll be in
Helena on Monday and Tuesday. I have the military training and...

Several other things, so I'm...

On the 13th, we've got an actual night out. Which we've had council on the national
night out if needed, and to test it, I'll be able to help. But what about the 12th
Wednesday? Wednesday the 12th.

Would you would that give you enough time with being gone Monday, Tuesday? Or I
mean, I'm fine with not 13th too. I mean, I, if you wouldn't mind, I'd like that extra
day. I so I suggest.

Thursday the 13th at 6:00, like normal. Usual time, yeah. Does that work?

C **Carrie** 1:19:58
I can do it.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:19:59

Gary, is that going to be OK for you?

C **Carrie** 1:20:04
Yes.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:20:05
work with it, but it just, you know, it's an actual night out, something that the city sponsors or is involved. Yeah, but we have, I mean, our visitors will be there, and I mean, this is more priority than that. I hate to say it, at least no council. Well, you can go get through watermelon before you come here. You have till 6:00.
Okay, so are we good on doing it Thursday the 13th?
At 6.
It's 5:30 to. I can do 5:30. OK.

C **Carrie** 1:20:42
Yeah, the earlier the better. It's past my bedtime over here.

JW **Jerad Walston** 1:20:45
Yeah, size 55 not work, so sometimes I don't get back into town.
Five 30? Yep. Well, and I appreciate having a meeting. I do, and then, too, will we have...
budgets for us or e-mail so we can print them or? So if you get, send to you, I'll get them to you as quickly as I can. I'm close, but it's just every time I think I'm close, then I find something I missed. So yeah, I will get them to you as quick as possible. I did send you Karla the,
the levy sheets for this year and last year. I did some. I remember this.
Chuckling, but I will.
I'll get that. Well, actually, I'll give them to Jerad and get them to you, so they actually, you can actually read that.
No.
Play.
Okay, awesome.
All in favor? Aye. You're adjourned.
Thank you, guys.
Call the song.

- **Jerad Walston** stopped transcription