

**1. Call To Order:**

The special meeting of the Biggs City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Frith. Vice Mayor Crawford and Councilors Arnold, Bottorff and Thompson were present. Staff present: City Administrator Pete Carr, City Attorney Greg Einhorn and City Clerk Roben Dewsnup.

**2. SPECIAL MEETING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: None.**

**3. PUBLIC SESSION:**

City Administrator Pete Carr asked Council to consider the Gridley Police Department contract negotiations. He stated the Butte County Sheriff's Department would contract with Biggs only if the California Highway Patrol (CHP) would handle traffic safety enforcement. This option was not affordable for Biggs. The City of Gridley reopened contract negotiations with Biggs and Mr. Carr presented a new contract to council and recommended Biggs continue contract police services with Gridley.

Mayor Frith opened the meeting for public comment. Biggs residents Jim Smallwood, Mel McLaughlin, William Turner, Victoria Burk, Former Mayor Sharleta Bassett, Tony Albiston, and Mrs. Alicia all agreed they wanted the Gridley Police Department to continue as their police service. Resident Mary Frith agreed with public comment but reminded those present that in two years, Biggs residents could be paying \$500 to \$600 per year to help fund police services and asked if they would really support that. Former Mayor Andrea Busch, who is currently a county resident, said she was attending the meeting on behalf of friends and family that were Biggs residents and stated her concerns about the slow response time of the sheriff and the impact of losing Gridley PD.

Mayor Frith closed public comment and asked Mr. Carr to restate the current issue. Mr. Carr reported a Request for Proposal was issued last October for police services with only two responses: Gridley Police Department and the Butte County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department requires the CHP conduct traffic control which Mr. Carr stated was not affordable. The first proposal from the City of Gridley was not affordable either. Gridley has presented a new proposal that is significantly different from the original. This contract does not state a price after the two year term.

Councilor Arnold asked Mr. Carr if Biggs could afford the current proposal from Gridley and Mr. Carr said yes, it is "on the high end of what is reasonable and affordable."

Councilors Thompson and Bottorff spoke in favor of the new contract with Gridley. Vice Mayor Crawford said the desire of Biggs was to stay with Gridley PD and although the previous version was unaffordable, he felt this new contract was acceptable.

Mayor Frith stated Biggs never said they did not want services from Gridley; the issue was money. He understood the relationship with Gridley was important and he was willing to move forward with the contract with Gridley.


Motion/Second for Council to accept the amended agreement between the City of Gridley and the City of Biggs for police services effective April 1, 2010. (Thompson/Bottorff, MCU)

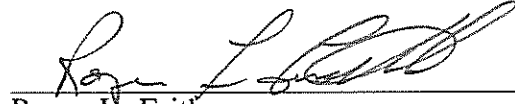
Mr. Carr advised Council that final approval of the contract requires Gridley City Council vote on Monday, March 15.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** Special meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roben Dewsnup  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger L. Frith  
Mayor, City of Biggs