

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**October 19, 2020**

(Administration, Personnel, Legal, Finance, PEG Access, Municipal Liquor, Police & Fire)

Present: Michael Meehlhause, Emelie Rivera

Staff: City Manager Nate Mathews, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Others: Ben Hein, Bruce Hemstad

### Call to Order

Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

### Bemidji Pioneer Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association (FRA) Pension Benefit

Ben Hein provided an update on the December 31, 2019 audited Relief financials; stating the fund has approximately \$4,000,000 in assets and \$3,300,000 in liabilities based on the Relief's internal benefit of \$8,150 per year of service, leaving the account about 122% overfunding. City and LGU's current guaranteed benefit level is \$7,337 per year of service, or about 134% overfunding. The Relief Association is currently requesting a 7% increase in the municipal guarantee to \$7,850 which would leave about 125% overfunding. The relief association will be voting to raise their internal benefit level to \$8,750. Council will need to approve both the municipal guarantee of a 7% increase for 2021 to \$7,850 per year of service; as well as the amendment to the relief association Bylaws. Consensus of the members was to support the 7% increase from the city and the amendment to the Relief Bylaws.

### Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller  
City Clerk