

City of Maxwell, Iowa Fire Board Special Meeting April 27, 2026 6:00 pm

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Higgins at 6:01 pm.
2. Roll call was answered by Indian Creek Trustees Ryan Peters and Mark Reisdorf, and their clerk Debra Moreland. Also present were Maxwell Fire Chief Tony Ness, Maxwell EMS Chief Scott Johnson, Maxwell Public Safety Subcommittee members Ken Jans and Joel Westendorf, councilpersons Derek Rothe and Sue Philpott, and city clerk Wendy Crabtree.
3. Rothe moved; Jans seconded approval of the agenda as presented. RCV: all ayes. M/C.
4. Discussion on the City of Decorah's Kawasaki Mule for sale. Chief Ness noted the unit operates at a lower speed, which may satisfy insurance considerations, and could be used locally for events on the bike trail, Old Settlers, and school sporting activities. Ness added it would be useful for grass fires, as it is less likely to become stuck than their larger equipment, and a majority of the yearly fire calls involve grass fires. A trailer would be required for transport. Philpott asked whether the purchase would be considered a want or a need. Rothe stated that the funds proposed for use would not affect the FY2027 budget as the trust funds have the cash on hand to pay for it. Ness indicated that the fire association could contribute toward the cost of the trailer. Johnson stated that the mule could be beneficial because it can access areas fire trucks cannot and can carry approximately 120 gallons of water. Westendorf noted that new mules with full equipment range from \$30,000 to \$60,000, while a used 2009 Kubota mule typically costs between \$15,000 and \$22,000. Jans moved, and Rothe seconded, to allow the Fire and EMS Department to submit a sealed bid of \$12,500, utilizing Washington Trust funds. Fire Board RCV: Ayes – City (Rothe: aye, Philpot: nay, Westendorf: aye, Jans: aye). Abstain – Indian Creek Township. M/C.
5. Discussion regarding the current 28E agreement between Indian Creek Township and the city. Rothe noted the existing formula requires the city to place Washington Township funds into a trust rather than use them directly to cover budgeted expenses. Mayor Higgins stated the formula limits the city's flexibility and results in the general fund covering the difference. Reisdorf reported the township board will review the terms at its next meeting and provide any proposed changes to the city clerk, noting the formula may be outdated.
6. Philpott moved; Rothe seconded adjournment at 7:02 pm. RCV: all ayes. M/C.