



City of Flandreau City Council Meeting

Agenda

12:00 p.m., Friday
January 10th, 2025
City Council Chambers
1005 W. Elm Avenue
Flandreau, SD

Meeting called by: Mayor Sutton

Type of meeting: Special

Agenda Topics

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrator
Turnquist

2

Adopt Agenda

Visitors to be Heard

Visitors to be Heard is the opportunity for persons to address the Council on items not on the Agenda. If the item can be handled administratively without Council action, the Mayor will refer it to the City Administrator. If the item requires Council action, it will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting. Persons wishing to comment on items on the Agenda shall request to speak following presentation of the agenda item and after the Mayor opens the item up for public comment.

New Business

25

Discussion: Moody County Ambulance

5

Charge of Ambulance Task Force

Special notes: Other business properly referred to the City Council.

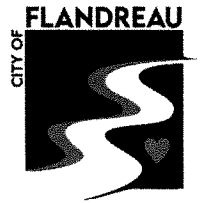
Cohl Turnquist
City Administrator

Distribution:

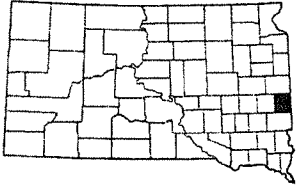
Mayor Sutton
Alderman Ahlers
Alderman Bjerke
Alderman Ekern
Alderman Fargen
Alderman Tufty
Alderman Yeaton

Cc:
Newspaper: Moody County Enterprise
City Attorney: Corey Bruning

Flandreau City Council:
Ambulance Task Force Charge



The City Council hereby charges the Ambulance Task Force to examine the feasibility of the City of Flandreau operating the Moody County Ambulance Service and requests that the Task Force render a recommendation to the City Council prior to February 28th, 2024.



Moody County Commissioner

101 E Pipestone Ave. • Suite F • Flandreau, SD 57028

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January 9, 2025

Hon. Dan Sutton, Mayor
Cohl Turnquist, Administrator
City of Flandreau
1005 W. Elm Avenue
Flandreau, SD 57028-1404

RE: *Moody County Ambulance Request for assistance from the City of Flandreau & City of Flandreau Ambulance Task Force*

Greetings,

At the outset, the Moody County Commission would like to express its dismay insofar as its well-intentioned attempt to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the Flandreau City Council on November 25, 2024, over the possibility of financial assistance and structural support for the County's ambulance department, was met with unfortunate discord. Going into that meeting, it was certainly not our goal to fracture an important inter-governmental relationship, nor was it our desire to be erroneously accused of wanton waste, flagrant mismanagement, presenting factual inaccuracies, and making threats towards the fine people who reside in Flandreau. Again, we are dismayed by the reception we were given, but due to the incredible importance of the Moody County Ambulance, we are still willing to engage in dialogue with you directly, or with a task force of your creation.

In moving forward with our discussion, we respectfully assert that it is important to understand where we have been. Going back to a January 25, 1989, article in the Moody County Enterprise, ambulance owner Mark Bonrud reported that his business was operating on a month-to-month basis, and that he would have to discontinue the ambulance if he did not receive a further subsidy from the Moody County Commission. The article went on to explain that Mr. Bonrud was receiving \$30,000.00 from the Moody County Commission annually, and that the Commission had set aside an additional \$28,000.00 in an ambulance fund should Mr. Bonrud's ambulance become inoperable.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bonrud's ambulance became inoperable, according to a March 15, 1989, article of the Moody County Enterprise, and the County quickly 1) purchased an ambulance for \$55,000.00, 2) hired Bonrud and his two employees, 3) allocated \$52,000.00 to salaries and training for Bonrud and staff, 4) paid Bonrud \$5,000.00 for his old ambulance, and 5) spent \$1,500.00 repairing the same with a new engine.

From then to now, although not actually required by law to do so, the Commission has carefully maintained, equipped, trained, staffed, and willingly provided an ambulance service for all of the residents of Moody County; even when such services are more frequently used within the City of Flandreau than any other town or township combined. Simply put, and as we tried to convey at the November 25, 2024, meeting, state law requires our government body to finance, oversee, and manage a wide array of operations within, and frequently beyond the Flandreau city limits (ie. bridges, roads, Sheriff Department services, county health, court services), but the cost of running an ambulance service through the County, without financial assistance and support from the City of Flandreau, is simply not sustainable¹

After reflecting upon the comments of the Flandreau City Council, and the observations made by the people in attendance at our joint-meeting, the Commission is pleased that the community of Flandreau understands the vital importance of having ambulance services provided to its residents, but the Commission is also discouraged by what can best be described as the City's distrust in Moody County continuing to run an ambulance. Rather than engage in a dialogue about a subsidy and infrastructure support, the City of Flandreau appears to have created a task force that has been given the charge of finding ways that will improve the running of the County's ambulance department without the City expressing a willingness to make a commitment of its own municipal resources to help the County.

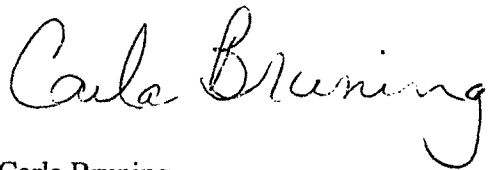
Therefore, rather than discussing a request for subsidy and ambulance garage location with and from the City of Flandreau, the Commission has voted to extend to the City of Flandreau the following offer:

1. Moody County will gift to the City of Flandreau all of the assets contained within the Moody County Ambulance Service; including vehicles, equipment, and supplies attendant thereto; and
2. Moody County will allow the City of Flandreau to utilize the current ambulance service facilities free of charge until such time as the City has prepared a suitable location of its own, a period the County believes will not exceed two years; and
3. Excepting the first year that the County's ambulance assets are transferred to the City of Flandreau, Moody County will provide the City of Flandreau with an annual subsidy of \$35,000.00, with ongoing review of the dollar amount, for as long as the City runs an ambulance.

¹ The County wishes to acknowledge and thank the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe for its willingness to provide an annual subsidy supporting the Moody County Ambulance, but even the generous spirit of the FSST is not enough to overcome this particular department's fiscal shortfalls.

As the running of an ambulance service is critically important to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the people of Flandreau, the Commission believes that the above-indicated offer should be weighed and responded to in an expedient manner, and we would like to receive your formal response no later than February 28, 2025, at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

On behalf of the Moody County Commission,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Bruning". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carla Bruning
Chair