

37 increased from \$13,000.00 to \$17,000.00. Next discussed was the Law Enforcement fund.
38 Members of the community have expressed a decrease in crime with the police presence.
39 Budget Officer Rob Gaslin explained that keeping the police is not sustainable as there is
40 no revenue to support it. The budget committee recommended at the previous meeting
41 to cut the budget for law enforcement in half, which would only provide Prairie City with
42 an officer for 20 hours a week. Councilor McClung stated that he would rather cut from
43 the Holiday budget than compromise on having a full-time officer. Budget Committee
44 member Georgia Patterson expressed that she would like to fully fund law enforcement.
45 Councilor Williams recommended the City expel its contract with the county police
46 department and cut police funding entirely. Councilor Bradford suggested a compromise,
47 rather than reducing the law enforcement fund to 50% he asked the council how they felt
48 about 75%. Councilor McClung asked to open the meeting to hear the public's opinion on
49 this matter. Mayor Clark asked if anyone would like to provide their feedback. Loreli
50 Clapp, manager of the Prairie City RV Park said that she felt safer having the police
51 presence, that she has witnessed drug deals and doesn't like it and that she has spoken to
52 the district attorney who said they can't do anything about it. Councilor Williams said
53 that is the reason she doesn't support funding the police, because Oregon has made
54 drugs legal and there isn't much the police can do. Councilor Bradford suggested leaving
55 100k available in the budget and to try to negotiate with the Sheriff's department and see
56 what 50-75% would provide us with. Frances Preston wanted to know how much of the
57 time that we are paying the Sheriff's department for is being spent within city limits?
58 Mayor Clark agreed that he too would also like to know the answer to that question and
59 will follow up with that question when he meets with the Sheriff to negotiate the
60 contract.