

City gives support to proposed fire district

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha City Commission has approved a resolution supporting the efforts of the Hiawatha Fire Department to form a fire district.

The action came at Monday evening's meeting.

The proposed fire district would consist of the city of Hiawatha, Hiawatha Township and Padonia Township.

The resolution confirms the city's intent to join the fire district.

In addition, it confirms the city's intent to transfer the fire department's current vehicles, equipment and the fire department building to the fire district.

The fire district would be responsible for the remaining more than \$90,000 owed on one fire department truck.

Interim Fire Chief Gene Atland said the fire department plans to meet with the Brown County Commission March 30 to seek their approval to form the fire district.

Following a hearing drawing no public comment, the Commission approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance of nearly \$6.3 million in bonds for the Hiawatha Community Hospital.

The bonds will be used to refund the hospital's existing bonds. In addition, they will provide around \$2 million in capital to the hospital for equipment upgrades and facility improvements.

City Administrator Mike Nichols said the city is acting as a conduit and there is no financial obligation.

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