The Hiawatha History Commission meet at the Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with the Edith Wheeler as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Dick Larson, Pat Semelroth, Don Gabel, Bev Daws and Roberta Hamdorf arrived at 1:56 p.m. Members absent: Jerry Seifried. Guests: Connie Westpfahl of Metro Studios and Rick Pierce.

Don Gabel moved the approval of the agenda, second by Dick Larson. Motion carried. Roberta Hamdorf moved the approval of the May 13, 2013 meeting minutes with corrections, second by Don Gabel.

**Metro Studios Update**

Connie Westphal of Metro Studios provided History Commission members with an update of the audio interviews:

* New and improved list of usual elements for video.
* New videos for next meeting; Roberta Hamdorf volunteered to review the transcriptions. Edie Wheeler suggested having a work session to go through them.
* When Connie Westphal comes to the next History meeting the committee will listen to the video to decide if it was Dick or Don telling the Fire Department story.
* Connie Westphal will drop off transcripts to Kim and Edie will determine a time to get together to review.

The History Commission interviewed Rick Pierce before the business meeting began. Highlights of the interview are as follows:

* In 1975, Rick Pierce bought an unfinished house when he moved to Hiawatha. They liked the small town atmosphere and never regretted moving to Hiawatha.
* When Rick left active duty in the Army he was in the reserves as a recruiter and moonlighted for the Linn County Sheriff’s Department.
* There was an opening in the Police Department in 1979, Rick knew the guys and he sat down to an interview with the Mayor and Dave Saari and was hired on the spot.
* Rick believes he was the first full-time Police Officer and in one (1) year he took over as sergeant.
* On Blairs Ferry Road there was no development past the railroad tracks. Rick’s house on Emmons Street was the last one built back then.
* Rick’s kids went to the Hiawatha Elementary School.
* The Police Department had two (2) Ford police Cars
* Mark Tope and Gary Manhart were hired later on.
* Dave Saari became full-time Police Chief in 1984.
* Rick worked and participated/volunteered with the Lions Club and the Legion and today his is commander of the Legion.
* Rick retired in 2005, he mentioned Hiawatha back then was like the Wild Wild West. There was fighting often. All of Linn County was this way not just Hiawatha.
* Things have gotten worse with drugs; fights have calmed down. Since then, sexual abuse and domestic abuse have become prevalent.
* In the beginning everything was done with paper and pen. Council realized the Police Department was falling behind the times and they were able to get computers, betters cars and equipment.
* The Police Department submitted a grant to help pay for the K-9 program. Businesses donated food and veterinarian offered free visits.
* Sara Melsa was the first handler. Today Erik Naaktgeboren is the handler.
* One of the last duties Rick had before he retired was to swear in his own son-in-law Brett Bartels.
* Rick believes technology has improved so much. Initially there were no cameras or microphones. Today this equipment is for the Police Department/City benefit for protection. The equipment is real time. Rick could sit in his office and see what is happening from reviewing the cameras.

**Further Work Sessions**

Edie will call.

**Update on Interviews**

* Craig Clark

**Ideas for Hiawatha Insight Articles**

Ernest Anthony “Ernie” located to 5th Avenue sometime in 1953. He had re-produced a rip tool for farm work. There were 12 of them made. Ernie also invented a frost cutter to lay pipe that cut the ground. Ask if anyone knows any more about his shop.

**Other Discussion**

The History Commission was selected as grand marshals of the Hog Wild Days parade on June 22, 2013, and was honored to lead the parade.

The Commission will be honored at the Lions Club appreciation dinner on June 19, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

The next History Commission meeting will be held on July 8, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Pat Semelroth moved to adjourn at 2:45 P.M., second by Bev Daws. Motion carried.

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Edith Wheeler, Chair