

## **AUGUST 22, 2016 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

2 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: M. Hraban, R. Moore, M. Platteter. Others present: A. Christianson, H. Helmecki, A. Lobermeier, D. Parker, D. Tuma, T. Verdegan.

### **Call to Order:**

Chair Moore called the meeting to order and presided.

### **Background:**

Comptroller Verdegan distributed departmental budget requests explaining that each included proposed expenditures and anticipated revenues, along with the difference, which indicates the net impact on the tax levy. She also noted that a capital expenditure needs projection is attached to each.

### **Reviews:**

Department heads then reviewed their particular requests noting items that remain largely the same from last year or those that are new, or significantly larger or smaller, and why.

### **Parks and Others:**

Mr. Parker reviewed budgets for the cemetery, parks, engineering, celebrations and entertainment, and solid waste.

#### Cemetery

- \$5,000 was added to the budget to cover cost of new mower in 2016 but the low bid of \$7,200 exceeded that such that additional monies were budgeted for 2017.
- In addition to mowing, Flambeau Correctional workers are also assisting with an effort to straighten markers.
- A new well may be needed soon at the cemetery. Efforts to clear it are becoming less successful as time goes on.
- Payroll reflects 25% of one f.t. position.

#### Parks

- Mower maintenance was added as a separate line item. \$6,500 was added to the 2017 budget to be matched by another \$6,500 in 2018, at which time a new mower will be purchased for an estimated \$13,000.
- Funding for three additional seasonal workers is requested; two just to allow existing maintenance to get done; and one to supplement Env. Challenge labor to build amphitheater.
- \$2,000 is added for tree replacement in view of losses of many older same aged trees.
- Payroll reflects seasonal workers and 25% of one f.t. position.
- White (frac) sand has been well received at the beach and hauling in 8 more loads would allow it to be done well.
- \$500 is included for repair of Riverview Trail washouts.
- \$2,500 is included for a goose roundup, which USDA has authorized. It is estimated that there are 60 resident geese at Falge Park. There are persistent complaints about droppings in and around pavilions. These often reappear shortly after cleanup.
- Monies are included for installing electric hand dryers to reduce damage from paper fires.
- Although there had been talk of bench upgrades at Centennial Park, nothing is budgeted.
- Paint is peeling on the O.J. Falge Pavilion.
- The bids are in to construct intake pipe from the center of Corbett Lake to the "dam", or outfall.
- Repair of the uneven wetland walkway in Falge Park may be best done in winter when work can be done through the ice providing a stable platform. Work done in wetlands is not eligible to be paid for from TIF.

### Engineering

-Digitizing water and sewer infrastructure locations will be a cost to those respective utilities. If the City were unable to work through county on this it would cost \$10,000 more.

### Celebrations and Entertainment

-Winter magic costs are more than offset by donations.

### Solid Waste

-There are 151 dumpsters in service, which currently cost \$750 each to replace.

-A new recyclables trailer will be needed at some point, at an estimates cost of \$30,000.

### **Police Department:**

-Chief Lobermeier and Lt. Julien advised that the request is largely the same as last year.

-Monies are identified to purchase a new squad car.

-The City has been advised of LPPA's desire to begin work on a new contract. No meeting date has been set.

-LPD's photocopier is in need of replacement with one with greater (color) capabilities.

-Although a number hasn't been quoted as such it is anticipated that IT support costs from Rusk County will increase as we move forward.

-Municipal court revenues are not a revenue to LPD.

### **Library:**

-Library budget discussion centered on the need for costly repairs such as to the stucco exterior. These will be the subject of a JMC meeting to be held at the library to facilitate a first-hand look once cost estimates are available.

### **General Government:**

Comptroller Verdegan reviewed this request.

-\$50,000 for security upgrades at city hall is just a number as cost estimates for components has not been developed as a project scope hasn't even been identified. The concept however is to eliminate unfettered access to the entire building in view of things that happen in school and government facilities in communities large and small. Turning the current Clerk's office into a secure waiting area from which visitors would need to be buzzed into various offices might be the most costly item. [In many places the presumed host comes to the waiting area and ushers accepted guests in, and out.]

-New rules require that a community that collects room taxes must have a committee that decides how these are used. This committee must include representation from among those who let rooms.

-"Vacation reserve" is funding designated to cover unused vacation liability.

### **Fire Department:**

-Chief Tuma advised that the request is essentially the same as for 2015 with the notable exception that funding is requested to replace 25 year old unit 234, a rural tanker which had been donated by Flambeau Mining.

-It was suggested that the Enbridge host communities grant program be investigated as a possible source of partial funding.

### **Summation:**

Mr. Hraban reviewed key decisions that will need to be made in conjunction with finalizing this budget. As an example, any fire truck purchase is likely to have to be financed as part of a bond sale.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be planned for Tuesday, August 30th at 4 p.m.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at about 4:30 p.m.