

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5 p.m. Council Chamber. Member present: B. Groothousen, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gibbs, K. Gorsegner, H. Helmcj, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Platteter called the meeting to order and presided.

2020 Budget Proposals:

Fire Dept.

Fire Chief Kyle Gibbs presented the 2020 budget Proposal for the Fire Department. A few notable items follow:

- Maintenance budget is down \$2,500, for now, with Maintenance will, however, need to be increased in years ahead as facility is now around 15 years old. Already floors and doors have had to be redone.
- \$2,000 has been added for pagers.
- \$58,000 in revenue was lost when Town of Willard decided to contract with Sheldon FD.
- If Willard calls LFD for service the Town will be charged "a decent rate" based on cost of equipment and firefighters' hours logged in each response.
- LFD is in good shape so far as major equipment.

Library

Library Director Hollis Helmecci presented the 2020 budget Proposals for the library upper and lower levels. A few notable items follow:

- Wages and benefits are incorporated into the draft budget at a 3% increase, including for library staff.
- Sawyer County pulled out of Act 150 involvement such that our library no longer receives a contribution for library material borrowing by that County's residents. Up to \$38,000 revenue will be lost.
- Many larger libraries are going "fine free", reducing revenues.

As several unsuccessful efforts have been made over the years to control moisture damage to the library, there is suspicion that moisture given off by people in the building is being trapped (like Tri State Homes) rather than being properly ventilated. Adm. Christianson will contact Apex Engineering about investigating moisture sources and removal solutions.

Solid Waste

Asst. DPW Parker presented the 2020 budget Proposal for solid waste collection and disposal. A few notable items follow:

- As estimated, the solid waste budget shows a small positive balance for 2020.
- \$25,000 is set aside toward purchase of a new packer truck in 2021.
- The budget recognizes a one-time recycling payment from Rusk Co. in the amount of \$13,727.50.

Other:

Workers Compensation rates for 2020 are down, but health care premiums are expected to be up.

Borrowing:

Those present were asked if they have any thoughts or questions on potential borrowing mentioned at Monday evening's meeting. The current overall budget has \$315,000 of anticipated borrowing built in. Borrowing another \$215,000 would be one option to balance it.

Adjourn:

At 6:22 p.m. motion was made by Platteter, seconded by Groothousen and carried by voice vote to adjourn. The next budget will be planned for Thursday, September 19th at 5:15, and focus on balancing.