

CITY OF ELKHORN
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Council Chambers, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin
June 9, 2014

The Committee of the Whole was called to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Brian Olson, Aldermen Hoss Rehberg, Gary Payson Sr., Jim D'Alessandro, Tom Myrin, Gregory Huss

Also present: City Administrator Sam Tapson, City Clerk Cairie Virrueta, DPW Manager Marty Nuss, Fire Chief Rod Smith, Utility Operations Director John Murphy, Library Director Lisa Selje, Recreation Director Wendy Ard, and Kellen Olshefski

Work Session: 2015 Pre-Budget Review

Police Joel Christensen presented his budget request to the committee for 2015. The Police Department is currently asking for a zero percent increase in their budget.

Library Director Lisa Selje addressed two concerns for the library in her budget. The first item was staffing. The Lakeshores Report shows that the library is understaffed and Lisa would like to increase her staff. The second addressed security at the library as theft is an issue. Director Selje said around 300 items, many DVDs, are stolen each year costing thousands of dollars. She is requesting a system utilizing gates, radio frequency tags and a film cover for CDs, to deter theft. The total cost for the system would be approximately \$30,000 and would last 50 years. She would train staff how to deal with alarms.

Utilities Operations Director John Murphy has included in his proposed budget painting and maintenance on water towers. He also informed the committee that a full-time water employee has resigned and will not be replaced. Director Murphy requested the hiring of temporary summer help to assist with reading meters and painting fire hydrants. He also pointed out that it is the second year of the GIS project and it needs a staff member for it during the summer. This fall, a city wide water flush, which hasn't been performed in many years, is planned. Director Murphy plans to review rates with the new finance director.

DPW Manager Martin Nuss informed the committee that the some of the city's snow plow trucks aren't roadworthy and there are more trucks than needed. He proposed that two be retired and one new truck be purchased as the newest truck is seven years old. Manager Nuss would also like to reduce the amount of summer help to 3-4 employees with two of them working April through October. He also pointed out that solid waste needs oversight.

Recreation Director Wendy Ard was requesting an increase in her budget. She would like to increase the amount of time the summer recreation coordinator works by 4-6 weeks. In addition, Director Ard seeks to hire a part-time assistant to work nights and Saturdays when the center is being used and to assist with paper overflow. Alderman D'Alessandro asked Ard what ideas she had to generate additional revenue. Ard pointed out sponsors for events are sought after and that the recreation fees were the lowest in the area.

Fire Chief Rod Smith presented options to the committee to provide Emergency Medical Services to the community. Chief Smith pointed out that paying another company to provide EMS limits the City's ability to utilize them. One option eliminates contracting EMS companies and hires City EMS personnel. This would add \$118,000 to the budget. Other municipalities participating are aware of proposed changes.

Following department budget requests, the committee discussed options on how to increase funds to cover potential budget deficits. Ideas proposed included increasing fees for services, raising the levy, using reserve funds and potential changes to employee benefit programs.

Mayor Brian Olson thanked the department heads for their budget information and presentations and for doing their part to try to save the City money. He instructed the committee to take time to review the information presented.

City Administrator Sam Tapson said the budgets will be delivered for the July 7th Finance and Judicial meeting and then any deficit can be evaluated at that time.

ADJOURN

Motion (Payson/Myrin) to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Cairie Virrueta
City Clerk

Approved 06/06/2014