

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

AUGUST 18, 2014

Jean Soine called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Other members present were Kay McDaniel, Elliot LaBeau, Belinda Ludwig, Finance Specialist.; and Renee Eckerly, City Administrator. Paul Wegner, Police Chief was also in attendance.

Motion was made by McDaniel to approve the minutes from the June 30 and July 21, 2014 Budget & Finance Committee meetings with one correction to the July 21, 2014 meeting noting Elliot LaBeau was present. Seconded by Ludwig and unanimously carried.

2015 BUDGET

It was reported that the budget is currently at a 10% increase and it needs to get down to 3% – 3.5% which means cutting \$44,265.00

Police - Wegner reported on the court fines. There is a decrease in this in most departments throughout the state over the past year. Wegner is researching why this is.

Ambulance Garage – The Committee discussed the ambulance garage rent that is currently not included in the budget, but put in a Capital Improvement account. The Committee agreed to put the \$8,700.00 from CentraCare Health – Paynesville into revenue. The current \$49,367.91 will stay where it is for now.

Public Works Department Staffing - The Committee discussed Ron Mergen's request for additional staffing in the Public Works Department. Eckerly is opposed to it until she knows what the staff is currently doing. The Public Works Department is currently contracting out a number of duties. The Committee discussed mowing and is there a cheaper way to get Veterans Park and the trail mowed. Could a high school student, 17-18 years old mow? Eckerly will talk to Mergen. The Committee would consider an additional 67 day employee if it would eliminate the contract for Veterans Park mowing.

Additional changes to the Budget:

Revenues

Under Building Permits - A reimbursement account for \$40,000.00 was added for money from other cities that contract for building inspection services.

Under Miscellaneous – Street Light Assessment to be increased \$1.00 per quarter from \$3.00 to \$4.00 (not to exceed \$16.00). A resolution will need to be approved to impose this fee. On January 1, 2010 the fee was increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00; not too exceed \$12.00 per year. This would equal \$4,000.00 in additional revenue. The utility fees are almost \$50,000.00 for all the street lights in the City.

Expenditures

Building Official – The Committee discussed the current status of the Building Official. The Building Official is to travel to other cities to decrease the costs for the City.

Health Insurance – There was a large increase due to the requirements under the Affordable Health Care Act.

Airport – Reduce the credit card fees to \$1,000.00.

Police – Before the police adjustment, the Committee had reduced the budget to 1%. The goal was between 3% - 3.5%. That is why the Committee gave the Chief back the \$1,500.00. Increase the Police Capital Improvement Fund by \$1,500.00.

Motion was made by Ludwig to approve the proposed 2015 budget with the noted changes and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by LaBeau and unanimously carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2014, but no meeting is necessary unless it is needed for an emergency.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.