

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27th, 2021**

Committee of the Whole: Dean Reed, John Reed, Jean Feldt, Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski, Al Schreiber

1. The 2022 Budget Meeting was called to order by Mayor Heier at 8:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Mayor Heier, Al Schreiber, Dean Reed, Jean Feldt, and John Reed.
Excused: Roger Reed and Kim Bronikowski
Also Present: Administrator Brittney Bickel, and as recording secretary
3. **Motion by Feldt second by D. Reed to approve the agenda. (4 ayes M/C)**
4. Public Input/Correspondence: None.
5. Discussion on 2022 budget requests scheduled as follows:

Airport: At 8:05 a.m. **Frank** Calvert, airport manager, handed out a sheet showing the expected revenues and expenses for the Airport in 2022. The Airport is asking for a 0% increase, the exact same numbers as last year. Calvert also mentioned that this year the 2021 Fly Over was an incredible success. The airport has three part time employees. He expects the 2023 budget also will remain the same.

Motion by J. Reed second by D. Reed to accept the 2022 Airport Budget as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

Building Inspection: At 8:15 a.m. **Joe Last**, building inspector, explained Tab 1, Page 5 revenues are staying status quo. J. Reed questioned the proposed budget amount for Razing Permits, it seems as though we do not meet those expected revenues and he suggests we lower that amount from \$6,000 to \$3,500 with Bickel and Last's approval and agreeance. Both issued an agreeance to lower the amount to \$3,500. Tab 1, Page 30, expenses are expected to go up due to the salary expenses being raised due to moving the municipal court clerk to full time with a portion of that time going to the Building Inspection Department. Last explained it is very helpful to have her and it gives him an extra 8-10 hours a week to complete other tasks. Training and Conferences due to COVID was not used, next year we will be back on track. Contractual Services 2021 actual expenses looks high, but that will be reimbursed with a grant check coming this year for the Spies Road purchase and demolition. Tab 9, Page 4 Capital Projects is for the software program that is used to document all the permits. 2022 is budgeting for 3-year agreement for both Last and Ebert.

Motion by Feldt second by D. Reed to approve the 2022 Building Inspection Budget as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

Municipal Court: At 8:25 a.m. **Judge Mike Bake and Patti Ebert**, Judge and municipal court clerk, explained Tab 1 Page 6, revenues are projected to be up this year and next year. Judge Bake explained that the expenses are expected to be the same in 2022, no changes, shown on Tab 1 Page 29. J. Reed questioned the 10% increases in salaries. Bickel explained this is because the municipal court clerk went from part-time to full-time. Ebert thanked the Council for approving her full-time position.

Motion by Feldt second by D. Reed to approve the 2022 Municipal Court Budget as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

Public Works: At 8:30 a.m. **Jeremy Wusterbarth**, Superintendent of Public Works and Utility, Tab 1, Page 8, explained the Public Works revenues, including the Jones Ave assessments. While going thru line by line he added an additional \$30,000 to the Transportation Aid revenue, for the LRIP Grant that will be used for Chicago St reconstruction and adding \$2,000 to Weed and Nuisance Control revenue. Tab 1 Page 40 Wusterbarth went over the expenses, most staying the same, but lowering Public Works Overtime from \$14,000 to \$13,000. Moving on to the Recycling revenues, Tab 4, he suggests we raise Disposal of Tires/Electronics up from \$14,000 to \$15,000 with the cost increase of getting rid of tires and electronics. This adjustment has been made at the Recycling Center. The old cost for the City was \$200 per ton and now costs \$325 per ton. Recycling expenses, with the recycling markets changing, are going down.

Motion by J. Reed second by Schreiber to approve the 2022 Public Works Budget as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

Harbor/Parks/Forestry: At 10:08 **John Bostedt**, Parks and Recreation Director, Tab 1 Page 9, Bostedt explained the Parks Revenue will be staying the same as last years budget. Moving on to expenses, Tab 1 Page 52, Bostedt explained the only change in expenses is the Overtime cost being raised from \$1,000 to \$6,000 per recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Committee. Copper Culture State Park is still in negotiations, we have yet to hear back from the DNR. Page 57, pool expenses, Bostedt explained the only change is chemicals cost is going up 3% for a total estimated pool cost of \$64,645. Feldt questioned if we have a long-term plan for replacing the pool since it is beyond its life expectancy. Schreiber explained he doesn't see how we could afford a new pool with the small population Oconto has. Feldt asked what other options outside of tax dollars there could be. Schreiber added we are very lucky to have the water resource of the Bond Center in the City. Feldt explained that we have a wonderful area at the Holtwood Sports Complex with the addition of the pool. Bostedt stated that if we can get a new pool, he would suggest it be zero entry with a splash pad, it is the most popular attraction for younger and older citizens. He always has his eye out for possible grants. Page 59, Forestry budget, Bostedt is asking for the carry-over amount plus \$6,500 in 2022 for a tree assessment to be done in 2022, which hasn't been done in many years and is needed to keep our Bird City status. The money in this account is also saved if we would ever have an EAB outbreak. Tab 6, Bostedt went over the Campground budget. Everything is projected to stay the same, except Camping Fees were raised 3.66%, for a total estimated Campground profit of \$7,235. Tab 7, Breakwater and Harbor revenues were raised due to a small increase in prices for 2022. 2022 expenses will be staying the same as 2021. Tab 9 Page 5, Parks Capital, Bostedt explained the money is for a Parks truck and the \$51,040 that was budgeted for the 2021 pool accounts that is being carried over into 2022 to be used to fix the pool. Bostedt also mentioned the Parks Department received a \$5,400 grant from the League of Municipalities, this money paired with the amount being asked for in Capital Projects account, and possibly a donation from the Bond Foundation, will go towards new playground equipment at City Park.

Motion by Schreiber second by Feldt to approve the 2022 Harbor, Parks, and Forestry Budgets as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

Library: At 11:24 a.m. **Kristin Laufenberg**, along with the Library Board, Tab 5, explained there aren't many changes in the Library revenues. Fines and copy revenues are down. Salary expenses are up with the hiring of three new people in 2021. Not increasing any other expense items. Training and Conference expense is going down because the library system provides grants for these courses.

Motion by D. Reed second by Feldt to approve the 2022 Library Budget as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

At 11:30 a.m. Break for Lunch until 1:00 p.m.

Police/Crime Prevention: At 1:00 p.m. **Chief Mike Rehberg**, Police Chief, Tab 2 Page 2, Shop with a Cop revenue and expenses, they are expected to remain the same. Tab 1 Page 31, Rehberg explained all the expenses are remaining the same, except Safety Equipment is going up for costs of ammunition and Operation Supplies will increase for the 3 bull-proof vests that need to be purchased. Our School Resource Officer will be going full-time. The school will pay 65% of the salary and benefits.

Motion by Feldt second by D. Reed to approve the 2022 Police and Crime Prevention Budgets as presented (4 ayes M/C)

Remainder of General Fund (Technology, Tourism, Industrial Development, and Others): At 1:10 p.m. **Brittney Bickel**, City Administrator, went over the remainder of the budgeted revenues and expenses. The remaining revenues in the General Fund are remaining very close to the same as last year. Page 12, Council, Mayor, and City attorney, 2% increase in salaries, all other expenses are staying the same as last year. Clerk expenses went down with changes in staff. Elections expenses went up with a potential 4 elections in 2022. Technology, Tourism, and Historical Society are staying close to the same, no major changes.

Motion by D. Reed second by Schreiber to approve the remainder of the General Fund as presented. (4 ayes M/C)

Fire/Ambulance: At 1:55 p.m. **Chief Josh Bostedt**, Fire Chief, handed out a breakdown of his added expenses, Tab 1 Page 36, starting with salaries Bostedt explained his large increase is because he is asking for 2 additional firefighters, as well as the Lt of Administration position. With the large increase in call volume, more staff is requested. Paid on Call staff is used and needed for big events for the Fire side. Ambulance side is where the additional staffing is needed. Feldt stated we can possibly afford 1 additional firefighter, but 2 is not an option. J. Reed added maybe next year it will be an option. The administration wage breakout between departments will be examined and adjusted if needed. **Motion by Feldt second by D. Reed to approve Lt of Administration position and one additional Firefighter position (4 ayes M/C)**

The Fire Department Negotiations are still on-going, depending on the decisions Council makes on the budgets. J. Reed commented to Chief Bostedt inquiring that overtime expenses will lessen with the additional firefighter being added, Bostedt responded that it could, he can try, but he cannot control it. Bostedt explained that the \$62,927 in the Training and Conferences account if 2\$ Dues from the State that can only be used on Fire related costs, this is a carry-over account. Office Supplies went up due to a computer program going out of date and needing to be updated. Clothing Allowance went up to account for the additional firefighter. Part-time firefighter and Ambulance costs are remaining the same. Capital Projects has a few increases, Tab 9 Page 4, asking \$39,300 for new tornado sirens, \$6,000 for fire gear, \$74,666 for radio antennas, \$8,315 for Lexipol, and \$16,733 for laptops.

Motion by D. Reed second by Schreiber to approve 2022 Fire and Ambulance Budgets as presented (4 ayes M/C)

6. Review/Discussion/Possible recommendation on 2022 Budget: Bickel reminded the Council that the 2022 Budget is still \$521,419 over the Levy Limit. The Council issued an agreeance of awareness. D. Reed stated he doesn't see any areas that can be cut.
7. **Motion by D. Reed second by J. Reed to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. (M/C)**

Minutes respectively submitted by:
Brittney M. Bickel, City Administrator