

PRESENT: Supervisor Brochey; Councilmembers Bax, Ceretto, Conrad, and Winkley; Finance Officer Blazick; Police Chief Previte; 2 Press and Clerk Donna Garfinkel

The Supervisor opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection.

The Town Clerk distributed the 2016 Tentative Budget for the Town.

Blazick has never been through this process. In the past, the budget was distributed and not discussed in detail. This will be a joint effort with all Board members being involved.

In preparing the Tentative Budget, Blazick used what few department heads submitted, worked with last years numbers, and analyzed current year's numbers. This process helped to understand the logistical aspect, but there is a lot of if, ands and buts within this budget.

Blazick discovered a program that allows her to put notes in each department budget line. This will be forwarded to the Board.

Nothing from Retained Earnings is in this budget. If Retained Earnings are used, Blazick is convinced Moody's will downgrade the Town again. The Town has to finance a BAN next year and convert it to a regular investment.

There are two sources of income the Town has not budgeted for. One is hydro dollars. Now that the Board approved a firm plan for the money, it can be done. The utilities for this year have been calculated, approximately \$322,000 and this money has been allocated. This is shown in Appendix H. The income for the hydro money is down, but so is the cost of utilities the Town is paying.

Hydro money will be distributed into each fund that pays the utilities. Those accounts do not exist in these funds. Board authorization will be needed to set this up. For budget purposes it is in Interest & Earnings now.

Blazick said every budget is in the negative. Revenues are down almost \$1-million. This is caused by a decrease in CWM, Modern Tipping Fees and the reality of the yearly Casino money. The Board needs to authorize the creation of an account.

\$1,278,807 of the H-97 account was used to balance this budget. As budget discussions continue, when something is changed, Blazick can identify exactly what the loss is.

Blazick requests to discuss each budget line with the Board along with department heads. Department heads need to come to the table thinking, no body is over paid, everybody deserves more money, but Blazick needs to know what can be sacrificed and live without. Blazick would like to schedule a time to discuss revenue, and then schedule meetings with each department head.

There are a lot of projects the Board needs to decide how to fund. The Town Hall phone system will need updating.

In going through the budget, Blazick has realized there are recording mistakes that need to be addressed. One example is there is Police Special Revenue, there is nothing in the books this year, yet it is budgeted \$40,000. Winkley believes Artpark is to pay Lewiston \$40,000.

Blazick asks the Board to review the revenues. They need to be reviewed, discussed and suggest ideas for additional monies.

The Highway Department (DB Fund) is in bad shape. The \$250,000 – Road Improvement, for the last two years, has been funded from the H-97 fund, along with Department Service. This fund has given more money to this department than any other.

H-97 needs to be taken down as much as possible. If the Town spends it to just budget, there will be nothing for projects.

Bax questioned where on the summary it shows DB is the worse fund. Blazick said it is not on the summary because the H-97 fund is being used to account for it.

Blazick said there are two vehicles that cost the Town \$2,000 - \$3,000 a year in maintenance. Bax said historically the Town has tried to institute something to fund the replacement of vehicles.

The balance in H-97 is approximately \$2,800,000, with approximately \$700,000 to be removed to accommodate the 2015 budget.

Blazick set the budget up, from here on in, that when money is spent it is removed right-away and shows the current balance.

Winkley requests a not-for-profit tally sheet. Blazick will forward.

Brochey said Artpark was going to pay for the Police, if the Town gave them Greenway funds to build a VIP section. They did not receive the Greenway money. Winkley thought the Town was going to give the Greenway money. Brochey said the VIP section was never built. As long as the Town would give \$150,000/year, they would give the Town \$40,000/year. That fell apart.

Blazick said giving \$150,000 to get \$40,000 is not a real good deal.

There are reconciliation issues that need to be addressed with the Greenway money but it is approximately \$200,000. There are still 2015 allocations that need to be done.

The Board scheduled a budget meeting for Thursday, October 15th at 11am with the Highway Dept., Town Clerk, and then Revenue. The Board scheduled a budget meeting for Tuesday, October 20th starting at 5:30 pm with remaining departments.

Winkley MOVED to authorize Blazick to add to each fund, budget line 1000-5031-0000, representing the Hydro Fund Allocation, Seconded by Bax and Carried 5 – 0.

Bax MOVED to authorize Blazick to open a budget code line to house the Casino revenue allocation, Seconded by Winkley and Carried 5 – 0.

Blazick said there is an account in the B-fund that the transfer from other funds uses a different account number. Blazick would like to correct this.

Winkley MOVED to change Account number 0532 to 5031, Seconded by Bax and Carried 5 – 0.

Winkley MOVED to adjourn, Seconded by Bax and Carried 5 – 0. (7:10 pm)

Transcribed and respectfully submitted by:

Donna R. Garfinkel
Town Clerk