

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

Agenda

May 24th, 2019

Directly following Street and Alley Committee Meeting

Present: Tami Christensen, Janet Sergent, Bryan Gartner

Absent: None

Visitors: Mayor Norby, Clerk/Treasurer Redfield, PWD Hintz, Chief DiFonzo, Building Inspector/Fire Marshal Kale Rasmussen, Fire Chief Larry Christensen

The Budget and Finance Committee was called to order at 4:40pm by Alderwoman Sergent. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield explained the Presumptive Worker's Comp Coverage, and provided the Budget and Finance Committee with a handout from MMIA further explaining. She stated that the City must submit a form completed by each volunteer fireman and a request signed by the Mayor to receive a quote on the cost of this additional insurance, and it is due by May 31st, 2019. She stated the City will then receive the quote and must either accept or refuse the coverage by the end of June. Alderwoman Christensen made a motion for the City to move forward with getting a quote on the SVFD Presumptive Worker's Comp Coverage, and Alderman Gartner seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Fire Chief Christensen turned in the paperwork completed by most of the volunteer firemen, but not all as some are out of town. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated she will wait to e-mail in the request for a quote until the end of next week, and Fire Chief Christensen stated he will try to get the rest the beginning of the week.

City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield provided the Budget and Finance Committee with the current contract setting the City Judge wages and a handout provided to her by Judge Savage showing the City Judge salaries for surrounding towns. Mayor Norby stated he is asking for an increase from \$24,000 a year to \$30,000 a year, and that he feels it is justified given his case load. After further discussion, Alderwoman Christensen made a motion to recommend approval of increasing the City Judge wage to \$30,000, and Alderman Gartner seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

City Clerk/Treasurer provided the Budget and Finance with multiple handouts showing the cost of the health insurance increase of 8%, and examples of COLAs. Chief DiFonzo asked when the City contributing 15% of the health insurance began, and City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated she was unsure, as it was long before her. Mayor Norby stated he felt it was important that the City at least cover the 8% health insurance increase. Chief DiFonzo stated that would be greatly appreciated, but that he would also like to see even a small COLA for his employees. Alderwoman Christensen asked about merit increases, and PWD Hintz stated he has been doing reviews but the rest of the process has not been established. City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated that some local governments are now doing evaluation based scale increases that have caps that could also be looked at. After discussion, Alderwoman Christensen made a motion to

recommend approval of the City paying the 8% health increase, a 1.5% COLA, and a \$250 holiday bonus. Alderman Gartner seconded the motion, and all present voted aye.

City Clerk/Treasurer Redfield stated she will now be ready to start working with the department heads on their budgets, and once that has been done she will be calling for another meeting to review those. She further stated that she would like to see the water and sewer budgets go before the Water and Sewer Committee, so that those Committee Members, who are not on the Budget and Finance Committee, can get more budget experience. Alderwoman Christensen made a motion to approve the Water and Sewer Committee reviewing and recommending on the Water and Sewer budget, and Alderman Gartner seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Jessica Redfield, City Clerk

Janet Sergent, Committee Chair