

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING ~ 300 LA CROSSE STREET
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965
OCTOBER 11, 2016

Chairperson Holzem called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Notice of the meeting was provided to the *Dells Events*, WNNO Radio, and posted in accordance with State Statutes.

1. Present: Ald. Brian Holzem, Mayor Brian Landers, Ald. Mike Freel and Ald. Dar Mor

Others: City Clerk Nancy R. Holzem, City Treasurer Karen Terry, Library Director Cathy Borck, Director Thad Meister, BID Chairperson Kelli Trumble, Ald. Ed Fox and Ed Legge from the *Dells Events*.
2. Motion by Ald. Mor seconded by Ald. Freel to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Motion by Mayor Landers seconded by Ald. Mor to exit the Airport Commission. Mayor Landers stated he met with Mayor Palm from the City of Baraboo, as well as Ald. Holzem and Tom Diehl from the Village of Lake Delton on this matter. Mayor Landers did not feel there is a substantial impact to the City of Wisconsin Dells in order to have a controlling interest in the Airport. Also noting it would be a financial burden on our tax payers to continue to participate in the renovation, expansion and upkeep of the airport. Landers also stated he did not want to hold back the other municipalities that benefit from the airport from moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Library Director Cathy Borck presented the proposed 2017 operating budget for the Kilbourn Library which included a .53% increase in expenses. Borck stated the Library hired two new employees in 2016 to fill vacancies. While wages went down the Health Insurance expense has increased due to the new hires and an existing employee electing coverage. Lake Delton's contribution for 2016 will be a \$370,325 in operating expenses. City Treasurer Karen Terry stated the full value of the Lake Delton contribution will now be recorded in the general fund, noting last year a portion was recorded as debt service. Cathy also requested \$30,000 to replace the boiler at the Community Center.

Parks & Recreations Director Thad Meister presented his proposed 2017 operating budget with an 18.6% increase in expenses over all areas. The request includes a new full time maintenance position. Meister also noted the new employment law for salaried employees will affect the Recreation Supervisor position. The new law will require salaried employees to make a minimum of \$47,476 annually. The current employee is making \$38,000 annually. Ald. Mor questioned if the supervisor duties merit the exempt status. City Treasurer Karen Terry stated the supervisor is a middle management position much like those positions held in DPW and the utility departments. Mayor Landers suggested having the supervisor take on additional duties such as the oversight of the Cemetery. Mayor Landers requested a meeting with Thad Meister and the supervisor to go over the duties of the position. Ald. Freel recommended the supervisor stay salaried and the City increase the wages accordingly.

Thad Meister presented the River & Bays 2017 proposed budget. The revenue was increased by \$8,800 to include the Commercial WHARF revenue. Ald. Holzem asked if the fees would be going up this year to reflect the 3% increase in odd years. Meister stated he will review and bring this to the committee on the schedule of fees at the end of the month.

BID Chairperson Kelli Trumble presented the 2017 proposed budget for the Business Improvement District. The BID assessments will increase 3.85% for the 2017 budget due to the decline in assessed value. City Treasurer Karen Terry stated the City has budgeted to pay for the fireworks for the July 4th celebration.

City Clerk Nancy Holzem presented the 2017 Council and Administrative operating budgets with a .45% decrease in expenditures (\$1,870) due to reallocation of wages. The Municipal Court budget reflects .03% increase.

City Treasurer Karen Terry presented the proposed 2017 TIF & Debt Service budgets. Terry noted that the TIF #2 has one bond issue and the 2017 increment will be sufficient to cover the TIF #2 expenditures. Terry stated that TIF #3 has a considerable amount of debt and a large portion of the debt will become callable in 2017. Terry stated the committee will be asked to consider a major refinancing in the upcoming months that will stabilize this debt over a long period of time. The total Debt Service levy for 2017 will be \$803,415. This is 18.92% savings from the prior year, due to the refinancing of the STFLs in 2016. Terry also noted there will be some special assessment revenue that will off-set a small portion of the debt payments.

Terry also recapped the Premier Resort Tax and recommended moving the Tree Fund Contribution of \$3,500, the Recycling Purchased Services of \$21,000, and BID Expenses of \$40,800 to the General Fund, as these are not qualifying uses for PRT. The committee's 2017 recommendations are as follows:

- \$200,000 – Economic Development Projects
- \$175,000 - SCBA Gear – Fire Department
- \$43,804 - Fire Truck Lease – Fire Department
- \$10,000 - Replacement windows – Fire Department
- \$11,000 – Ball Field Reconditioning – Parks Department
- \$22,000 – Storage Shed/Roof – Parks Department
- \$78,000 – Retaining Wall Jenkins Park – Parks Department
- \$5,000 – Bowman Park – Stable Building Planning
- \$5,000 – Trout Rd Path – Planning/Grant
- \$2,500 – Dog Park
- \$12,665 – Squad Equipment – Police Department
- \$7,500 – Garage Repairs – Police Department

City Treasurer Terry also stated the City had a net of no new construction in 2016. This calculation along with the CPI drives the amount of increase for the Expenditure Restraint Program. Terry stated the City has based their budget requests to reflect a .72% increase in expenditures in order to qualify for the ERP in 2017, but noted the final notice will come from the State by the end of October. Adjustments will be made accordingly.

5. No additional comments.

6. Motion by Ald. Freel seconded by Ald. Mor to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Karen Terry, City Treasurer