

BUDGET WORKSHOP
MAY 26, 1998, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Budget Workshop is called to order by Hamon at 6:05 P.M.

Members Present: Hammon, Cox, Zelenko, Martinbianco, Walls

Members Absent: Centilli, Cross

Others Present: J. Majors, DPW Director, B. Becker, Treasurer/Controller, P. McDougall, Criminal Diversion Director, J. Benthall, Police Chief, Douglas Halsted, Fire Chief, J. Adams, Clerk's Office.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: REVIEW OF THE 1998-1999 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE
FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

1. City Hall & Grounds
2. Debt Service
3. Special Assessment
4. D.D.A.
5. Capital Projects
6. Miscellaneous
7. Criminal Diversion
8. Parks and Recreation
9. Fire Department
10. Police Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Benthall stated the 1998-1999 proposed police budget is similar to last year's with the exception of the police vehicles. There is an increase in tickets issued and in arrests. He indicated there are some items they would like to improve upon in this next year and most of those are reflected in the budget.

Mr. Pat McDougall said he would like to make a recommendation to this Committee for the Finance Committee to discuss making him a City employee. He stated he has provided a good service for the City for the last 17 years. He has submitted statistics, his request is in writing, and indicated that the program did quite well last year.

Discussion followed on the Diversion Program. Statistics show that in 1982, 282 referrals generated \$12,659. Mr. McDougall stated when the program originally started the fee was \$100 and is now at \$250. In 1995-96 the referrals decreased and that was due to the process of a new judge not being familiar with what was referred to the program. He now expects to see those referrals come up.

Chief Benthall spoke on the Courtland Center agreement and indicated it expires in July and they will be re-negotiating with the Manager of Courtland. He will ask for an increase that compares to the amount of salary increase to the employees. Salaries are estimated at \$64,900 which reflects a \$1,900 increase.

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Discussion followed regarding the police department vehicles. Lt. Cunningham stated that currently, there is 12 marked police cars and a fleet of 20 total vehicles, which includes a van for DARE. It is estimated that 65% of the cars have over 100,000 miles and with repairs and the inability of parts, it maintains a constant problem.

Chief Benthall stated he is asking for 5 new police cars for the marked fleet and 2 detective cars. They are looking at car model Luminas at a cost of approximately \$15,000 each for the detective cars. It is essential they maintain full size cars because of all the equipment required inside the vehicles, anything smaller would not serve as a marked police car.

Discussion followed regarding updating equipment. Lt. Cunningham stated they need to re-vamp their radio system to be compatible with 911. Several will need to be replaced because they do not have channel ability and they need to change all frequencies. The cost is approximately \$1,500 each and they have 9 non-programmable walkie/talkies and six non-programmable police car radios.

Discussion followed regarding leasing equipment. Chief Benthall spoke on a lease package that would allow you to obtain all new radios, sirens, light bars and anything electrical for less money than they are paying now for equipment and every five years obtain them all new. Chief Benthall said he wants to explore this further.

The following items were discussed in length: The Criminal Diversion Program's statistics and employee benefits for Mr. McDougall, estimates in the budget related to the POAM contract and the COAM percentage increase.

Discussion on tickets issued and the revenue generated followed. Lt. Cunningham said the tickets issued in 1997 increased 54%, traffic arrests increased 40% and injury accidents were down 5%. The traffic officer's salary and revenues were discussed at length. Chief Benthall said the traffic officer position generates his own salary by the number of tickets issued.

The District Court fees were discussed in length. B. Becker stated there are problems in getting the District Court to identify how much revenue is seen by the traffic officer. Tickets issued and revenues received need to be reviewed at length.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Halsted spoke on the \$230,000 expense for a fire vehicle and equipment, and indicated a proposed one time capital needs expense which is the beginning of a five year plan implementing to purchase a new fire truck each five years.

Discussion followed regarding the Capital Budget Fund on a project basis as opposed to fund basis.

Chief Halsted stated there is an increase in part-time firefighter salaries due to 16 new firefighters and spoke on the increase in fire runs.

Chief Halsted spoke on the maintenance of Stations #2 and #3. In the past year they coated and sealed the parking lots and added safety features to the stations rolled-up doors. The new Federal Government laws regarding firefighters are 2 In and 2 Out, Rapid Intervention Team and Respiratory Standards Act. It will cost the fire departments throughout the County a great deal of money. All employees need to be physically tested to make sure they have no pulmonary dysfunction what-so-ever, and all face masks tested to meet all of OSHA standards which the State of Michigan, adopted just a few days ago and retroactive to April 1st. Chief Halsted said he estimates the cost of approximately \$7,000 to test through our clinic and purchase equipment for testing the masks. Through the County Fire Chiefs, he is working with other departments to obtain a quantity discount by having other departments involved in testing together to help keep costs down.

Chief Halsted stated another item of need at a cost of \$76,000 is venting tubes to attach to exhaust systems on fire trucks. These tubes are necessary because when the trucks are started indoors, the diesel engines omit exhaust of Sulfur which is highly carcinogenic. He indicated all departments must comply at some point.

Discussion followed in length regarding training, hazardous materials, on-call departments and personnel items.

PARKS & RECREATION:

B. Becker stated the Parks & Recreation have a widely changing budget. He said the salaries permanent and maintenance of grounds is quite similar. There is an increase in operating supplies which primarily addresses existing needs to Fire Station 2, safety issues and upgrading existing equipment. He stated it does not include new park programs, five year capital plans, maintaining existing parks structure with minimal maintenance at the Veterans Memorial.

B. Becker spoke in length on the Water Tower Park and indicated they tried to generate a mixed funding mechanism to support it. He stated for the project there are dollars set aside in the Water Revenue Bond to restore the property and spoke on the contributions from the DDA.

Zelenko said the Parks & Recreation Commission discussed using the unallocated/untargeted funds for joining organizations such as the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association which will serve as a vehicle to collect information specifically on guidelines as to what the State uses in providing safe parks and equipment. They have a preliminary estimate to maintain Station #2 park of \$8,200 to comply with the guidelines of the Michigan Recreation Park Association. Zelenko spoke on the need of seminars and speakers for presentations.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Teryl Sperlich, 1253 Howe Rd., Burton, MI asked about specific dollars for allocated and unallocated items regarding Kelly Lake. She also mentioned continued notification of residents.

Zelenko said at present the only item being allocated is the \$17,000 for the grant match applied for.

Discussion continued on the following items: Water Tower Park, conferences and involvement with IMA.

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Council discussed dates on further rap-up sessions. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4th at 11:00 a.m. for rap-up/amendments for the budget.

CITY HALL AND GROUNDS:

B. Becker indicated the budget is similar to the previous year's and spoke briefly on salaries, building maintenance, supplies, contracted janitor service, alarm company and the computer System 36. Mr. Becker said the voice mail computer system needs to be updated at a cost of approximately \$6,090. The Police Fund would share in that cost as well as the Motor Pool.

DEBT SERVICE:

B. Becker spoke on the special assessments sold over the last 15 years and the bond and interest schedules. The sale of the Water Revenue Bonds and with the identified bond and interest schedules, those changes will be reflective in the Water Fund. They sold the bonds at a better rate than anticipated so there will be an approximate \$27,000 savings in the Water Fund. The Major Street construction, they sold the bonds at a lower rate than anticipated which reflects \$42,795.

DDA:

B. Becker spoke on the proposed budget of the DDA and the millage rate of approximately 1.94 to still be authorized. He indicated the cost of the Water Tower Park at \$30,000 and \$20,000 towards the purchase of a clock.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

B. Becker discussed the Revenue Bond Projects and 2.25 million dollar bond proceeds for the Water Tower. He stated it has been suggested to assign a separate work session meeting for these items.

MISCELLANEOUS:

B. Becker spoke on the Self Insurance Fund and stated there was dramatic savings with the self insured plan. He stated there will be increases in the second year of the two year commitment and that even with the proposed amount of \$408,000, they will be under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates 2 years ago.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 P.M.

Julie R. Adams
Clerk's Office