

Village of North Fond du Lac
OFFICIAL MINUTES - Meeting of November 30, 2009
PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENT: James Moore, Village President
Mike Streetar, Trustee
Mike Will, Trustee
Jim Scharf, Trustee
Keith King, Trustee

Darren Pautsch
Sherry Behnke

STAFF PRESENT:

Chuck Hornung, Administrator
Chief Bill Lamb, Police Chief
Nick Leonard, Director of Engineering and Planning
Donna Richards, Village Clerk

OTHERS: Aaron Sadoff
Brian Liethen
Donovan Heavener
Mark Beveridge

Chairman: MOORE

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moore at 6 PM.

- A. **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS.** Mike Streetar, Mike Will, Jim Scharf, Keith King, Jim Moore here, (0 Absent).
B. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE GENERAL OPERATING, DEBT SERVICE FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, SPILLMAN LIBRARY, EMS FUND AND TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT #1 (CDA) BUDGETS, AND SETTING THE TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.**

President Moore asked for citizen comments. Comments:

Mark Beveridge, 746 Lakeshore Drive. Regrets we are not televising the Public Hearing on the Budget. Thinks all meetings should be televised. Would like not just the summary on the website, but the entire budget, so everyone can see the whole thing if they want, and print the pages they wish to print. It was sent to him by e-mail, and he could easily browse through and find what he was interested in. Noticed that the pool is still in there. Wants to keep the pool. Said city had the same problem with Taylor Park, and found out that it is one of the few Olympic sized pools in the State. Considers it a quality of life issue, and thinks we should keep it. His granddaughter found the pool this summer for the first time, and she and her friends went nearly every day they could this summer. \$1.3 million for Police should be able to find roughly \$50,000 to \$100,000 to keep the pool open. The Police do a fine job, but not sure we want \$1.3 million for Police if it is at the expense of other things. On CIP budget, noticed that there is in 2008-2009-2010 each year about \$300,000 a year for the ladder truck. Mentioned to the Fire Chief in Fond du Lac that we had almost \$1,000,000 for the ladder truck. As a member of MABIS, can share that kind of equipment across communities. TIF #1 is in the budget, and why isn't TIF #2 in the budget? Mr. Beveridge said we have spent over \$1,000,000 so far on TIF #2.

Mr. Hornung responded on several points. The budget discussions have been on the agenda for several months, including televised meetings, so anyone had the opportunity to speak on the budget, and to learn about the budget, and we sent it to anyone requesting it. We have timelines for the budget adoption to adhere to, and need to give 15 days notice. With several figures not yet finalized, we could not get it done sooner, i.e. for a regular meeting. For the pool, we are forming a citizens' committee to try to increase revenues and decrease costs for a combination of \$20,000. The ladder truck is paying \$33,000 each year on the lease of a ladder truck we already have.

Chief Lamb spoke to the issues of the Police budget. Law enforcement agency budgets tend to shock the senses, as this is 24/7/365 days a year. \$1.3 million sounds like a lot. Chief Lamb tries to stay in tune with what is usual, so found numbers from the Taxpayer's alliance. He used an increase of 2 or 3% of a 2006 average. Came up with \$245 per capita for comparable communities, and we are at \$246 per capita, so we are right there. Looked at staffing levels for communities of 4500-5500 population within 20 miles of a major population center of 50,000 population or more (11 communities). Full Time average is at 9.9 or rounding to 10 people, and we are at 12. Chief Lamb said part timers are not included in the numbers. But, the communities who use part time average 4.4 part timers, or the equivalent of 1.5 full time positions, which makes them comparable to us. Chief Lamb lives here, tries to be sensitive to the community while recommending the budget he feels is needed to do the job. Of the 11 communities, only 2 have a School Resource Officer, so we have that service added on to all that we do. The School District pays for 50% of that salary, so we really are closer to the 11.5 people average.

Mr. Streetar mentioned to Mr. Beveridge that we stopped using part time personnel, to gain higher retention rates, which is more cost effective for the community. We lost people all the time. Chief Lamb added that part time Police personnel were abolished in 1998. The department was treated like a training ground prior to that. We were constantly hiring people; would train people, and then they would leave. We have great instability in the schedule. Over the years, through various administrators and Boards, we have managed to end the part time positions, and added full time positions.

Mr. Will asked the question about TIF #2. Mr. Hornung said we do have a budget for TIF #2. It is not in there, as there is no increment yet. The debt service is currently part of the Village's debt service until the TIF starts to bring in revenue. When the Village is repaid, it will be with interest from the TIF.

Aaron Sadoff, 801 Creek Vu, spoke as a resident and as the Superintendent of the Schools. He said the support he gets from the Police Department and from the School Resource Officer Donovan Heavener is amazing. Although the effect is hard to measure, crime has not gotten worse. Given our populations with some transient and other people, it is important that students don't view the Police as bad, or at least are viewed as less bad, due to the relationships established. It is like preventative maintenance. Schools are safe. Children are held accountable by parents, educators and teachers, as well as the Police. Can't measure statistically, but, maybe kids won't get into crime, or won't be making bad decisions, because of their relationship with the Police and the community. Also, from a parent's standpoint, he grew up in Fond du Lac. Moved here three years ago. Remembers the reputation of North Fond du Lac. Feels he can send his children to the park or down the street with each other and their friends, due to the close knit community and the Police. Does not feel that way about Fond du Lac. Also, related to his home, if anything has been needed from DPW, the water department or anything, it has always been very positive. He hears that from everyone he is in contact with. If the mill rate costs a little more to live here, people say why they are living here... For the small town feeling: we may be paying a little more, but we are also progressive. Thinks that the more we know about TID #2, the more the future of the Village is understood, the more support we may get, and the more development we may be able to attract. We are at a crossroads. With New North and the growth from Fond du Lac to Oshkosh, we can make some great decisions towards the future of the community, or maybe some not so great decisions. It will be useful to have good information with which to make decisions. At the school district, we dropped budget by 4%; is sure it won't be the same next year. Hopefully, together we can continue to provide great services for the community.

Mr. Hornung commented as to how he got to the budget this year, and the sacrifices made by staff and others to get the budget to this point. For Emergency Medical Services (EMS), we moved to a paramedic level of services this year, and calls are down this year by 30%. Rates for all communities served by NFDL EMS Paramedics were raised from \$13 to \$19 per person for next year, which costs the Village \$30,000 more. In addition to this, shared revenues from the State went down \$20,000 and transportation aids paid from the State also went down \$20,000. We approached it a number of ways. Training budgets were cut, and we pushed the capital project for Michigan Avenue out to 2011. The Village's three unions reopened their contracts, and went with a freeze in pay by taking unpaid furlough days. So, that allowed for an increase of only 1%. The overall rate for all the local taxes combined will go down by 1% to 2%, due to the local schools lowering their rate. We will see what happens next year.

Sherry Behnke, 1905 Chapman Avenue, also is the County Supervisor for this area. She was pleased to see that we looked at budgets here with no increase in mind; we did the same thing at the County. She is concerned when capital projects get pushed back. Hoping it will not get pushed back numerous times. This is the first time Michigan Avenue is being pushed back.

Nick Leonard clarified that we will start construction in 2011 and finish in 2012, with design next year.

Sherry Behnke talked about the sidewalk program. Nick Leonard explained that the program is done every several years depending on other work going on. Then in between work is done on bad sidewalks. He also explained that the program is fully reimbursable and can be assessed, so it pays for itself.

Ms. Behnke asked about employee benefits going up 24%. Mr. Hornung explained that some is health, some is workmen's compensation. Due to an increase in claims, a good year rolled off, and a bad year rolled in to the rate for workmen's comp. Asked about the community center, wants to make sure the commitment to the Center continues. Is happy the pool will stay open. Pools never break even, and aren't meant to. She was born and raised here, and remembers the Police department as it was, and doesn't want to go back to that. And the SRO, Donovan Heavener does an outstanding job.

Mr. Hornung asked Ms. Behnke if she knows that the pool was once owned by the County. She said, yes she was aware of that.

Ms. Behnke said she also is surprised that this is not telecast; that this is the official Public Hearing. Mr. Moore said we will do better next year.

Village President Moore asked for any additional public hearing comments three times.

C. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Strettar, 2nd by Scharf to adjourn. Strettar, Will, Sharf, King, Moore all yes.

Respectfully submitted,

James Moore, Village

President