

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
WORKSESSION MINUTES
August 28, 2009

Mayor Hakes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Sue Hakes, Jan Sivertson and Tim Kennedy

Members absent: William Lenz and Kay Costello

Staff present: Mike Roth, Len Bloomquist, Ben Silence, Dave Tersteeg and Kim Dunsmoor

The street and building maintenance budgets were discussed. Possible capital equipment purchases that will be needed soon are a street sweeper and a new dump truck.

The fire department and first responder budgets were discussed. The grant for communication improvements was turned down. We are still waiting to hear about the grant for the building addition. The fire department would like to bring the first responders into the fire department relief association. There are about 4 first responders that are not also firefighters. We may apply to receive a refurbished ambulance for a first responder vehicle. Capital Equipment purchases that will be needed in the near future include a water tanker and a deck gun for the water pumper.

The campground and pool budgets were discussed. Cable TV and internet access options were discussed. The park did not replace one of their seasonal maintenance workers and have been doing more with fewer hours. As seasonal campers leave the campground, lots are being held for daily and weekly campers. Capital improvements needed include new blacktop on the roads especially 8th Avenue West and toward the ball field. Bathhouse improvements and the Park Master Plan can be phased over time. The pool will have fewer open hours in 2010 in an effort to reduce costs. The county voted to pay 1/3rd of the operating losses of the pool in 2009 and 2010 up to \$75,000. Although, the county contribution will help, we still need to look for ways to reduce expenses at the pool. The future of the pool is uncertain until we know the outcome of the 1% Sales Tax Referendum and if a new pool will be built at the community center location. The council would like the park board to consider ways to decrease losses at the pool by \$25,000 for 2010.

Budgets for marina and city parks will be scheduled at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.