

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
WORKSESSION MINUTES  
*August 8, 2007*

Mayor Larsen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members present: Evelyn Larsen, Kay Costello, Edward Bolstad, Tim Kennedy and William Lenz

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor, Linda Chappell

Linda Chappell, Library Director, reviewed the Library Budget as approved by the Library Board. The 2008 budget is a 7.4% increase over the 2007 budget. The majority of the increase is due to personnel wages and insurance costs. In addition the Arrowhead Library System is increasing our membership fees by \$1,150. The library will be assessed approximately this amount of increase for the next several years. The actual cost of services to be delivered to our library in 2008 is \$22,736. We are currently paying only \$16,966, which means other counties are subsidizing our services. ALS is trying to equalize funding for services amongst the seven counties it serves.

The council briefly discussed the General Fund Budget preparations. We have some known costs for 2008. The union contract has already set wages for 2008 with an anticipated increase of \$21,150 for General Fund wages. We anticipate a 10% increase for health insurance, as has been the industry standard. Our Local Government Aid has been cut by \$14,477. Upcoming capital improvements include Creechville and 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W. Some other items of consideration are the purchase of a speed trailer approximately \$10,000, hiring of a building inspector, capital improvements and losses of the pool.

The council discussed the budget calendar and scheduled a worksession for August 16<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. to meet with the parks, fire, street and cityhall departments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.