

***CITY OF GRAND MARAIS***  
***WORKSESSION MINUTES***  
***August 27, 2014***

Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Larry Carlson, Tim Kennedy, Jan Sivertson, Bob Spry, and Bill Lenz

Members absent: None

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

Len Bloomquist, Property Maintenance Supervisor, reviewed the buildings and street budget. The combined budget has increased 19% due to an additional employee and increased heating and snow removal costs. Snowplowing the sidewalk to the west end of town is costly. In the past two years there has not been very much snowmobile traffic on the unplowed bike trail. The snowmobile club has not groomed the trail. It would be less costly to plow the bike trail and safer for pedestrians. There is an alternate snowmobile route to reach the Aspen Inn. We should contact the snowmobile club and discuss this potential change.

Ben Silence, Fire Chief, reviewed the fire department budget. Heating fuel and depreciation costs have increased due to new equipment. Overall, the department is in great shape for equipment. The county helps to pay the fire department levy based on a formula that includes the budget, property values and calls outside the city limits.

Dave Tersteeg, Parks Manager, reviewed the parks budget. The park budget continues to provide income to the city while upgrading sites and roads and reducing the property tax levy. The difference between the daily and monthly site rentals was discussed and both are important to the mix in the park. The county agreed to pay for half of the demolition of the pool building that will happen later this year. The marina continues to have a net profit of approximately \$20,000 per year. City parks such as Harbor Park, Boulder Park and ballfield maintenance has been costing approximately \$28,000 per year. There are no more concrete benches for memorials. It is time to stop taking donations for memorials.

Mike Roth, City Administrator, reviewed the rest of the general fund budget. We anticipate spending the entire council budget in 2015 because we will have new members that we will want to send to Newly Elected Official Training. City Clerk budget increased in wages and health insurance. We will have election costs in 2015. The City Attorney budget is a little unpredictable based upon issues that face the city. Other general government includes council priorities and the county pool agreement for the YMCA. Planning and Zoning is a portion of the City Administrator salary.

Based on the preliminary budget, the levy increase would be 1.90%. The council desired to increase part-time salaries in the park and increase monthly rental revenues prior to setting the preliminary levy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Mayor, Laurence Carlson

ATTEST:

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City Administrator, Michael J. Roth