

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
WORKSESSION MINUTES
September 14, 2011

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

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

Members absent: Bob Spry

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

Len Bloomquist, Property Maintenance Supervisor, discussed the 2012 budget for city hall and streets. Last year the lighting retrofit was the largest portion of building maintenance. This year doors are being replaced in the EDA area and the Council Chambers area. This is a good time to see the condition of the building. The building has shifted over the years and there is an odor in the council chambers entrance area. The budget remains nearly the same as 2011.

The streets budget is nearly the same as 2011. The sweeper is in tough shape and the parts are becoming obsolete. A new sweeper costs about \$150,000 and a used sweeper between \$50,000 and \$90,000. We may need to chip seal streets in the near future. We would combine chip sealing projects with the county.

Mike Roth, City Administrator, discussed the loss of the Market Value Homestead Credit. We may want to decrease the levy in order to keep property taxes level. There are about 15 factors that affect property taxes and the city has some control over 2 of the factors. We recommend approving the preliminary levy with the 1.8% increase and look at options to reduce the levy before December.

Ben Silence, Grand Marais Fire Chief, discussed the 2012 fire department budget. The budget remains nearly the same as 2011. The department is applying for a FEMA grant to replace the tender truck. If we are successful in receiving the grant, the city would be responsible for about 3% of the cost. The county contribution revenue is for coverage of areas outside the city limits.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.