

WATERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING/BUDGET WORK SESSION  
August 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

There was a special meeting/budget work session of the Waterville City Council held in Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the 2018-2020 Fire Agreement and the 2018 Fire Department Budget, 2018 Council budget work session, community solar garden proposal, volunteer Fire assistance grant proposal, and 3.2 liquor license request – Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Present: Grobe, McIntyre, Wollin, Smith and Mayor Schmidtke

Absent: None

Also Present: Administrator/Clerk Teresa Hill, Judy Hering and Al Gehrke of Waterville Township, John Manning Chief of Police, Doug Spicer Emergency Management, Chris Meskan Fire Chief.

Also Absent: None

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Schmidtke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., noting that all Council members were present. Also present Teresa Hill Administrator/Clerk, Judy Hering and Al Gehrke of Waterville Township, John Manning Chief of Police, Doug Spicer Emergency Management, Chris Meskan Fire Chief. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** Mayor Schmidtke requested that #6 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Approval, and #7 3.2 Liquor License Request – Holy Trinity Catholic Church be added to the agenda. Motion by Smith seconded by McIntyre to approve the agenda with the two additions. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- 3. 2018-2020 Fire Agreement and 2018 Fire Department Budget.** Judy Hering and Al Gehrke were present for Waterville Township. Ms. Hill advised that she was able to verify the number of service calls and market values on structures. She updated those percentages and are on the revised copy of the Fire Agreement. This changes the overall percentage for the township of 38.7%. She has not verified populations and Council and the Township Board can decide if she should dig into that more. She would have to go out and count every household that is in Blooming Grove and Iosco and do it by the average household for the township approximately 3.3 per household. Ms. Hill printed out the new revised 2018 budget applying 30.87 percent to the township portion. Mr. Gehrke asked how the billing is generated. Ms. Hill said she goes from January 1, to December 31<sup>st</sup> and when our audit is complete we generate the bill from that. Mr. Gehrke was questioning the timing of the billing as it will help their bookkeeper with the books. Mr. Gehrke asked if when there is training do they put the new fire fighters on a one year probation? Mayor Schmidtke said they get paid at the end of the year. Fire Chief Meskan said that we do not hold their pay until they complete a year. Mr. Gehrke would like to see if we can hold the pay until they complete a year. Discussion regarding setting up a probationary period. This would have to be discussed with the Fire Department and Council and look at when the next round of recruits are needed. Mr. Gehrke said that he was fine with Ms. Hill not looking at the population.
- 4. 2018 Budget Work Session.** Ms. Hill said we have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to set the proposed levy and certify it. Ms. Hill said most of the numbers came from her with the exception of some equipment type stuff if there was something in particular the department is looking for. She based that off of previous years of what those supplies look like and inflation factors are figured in also.

Emergency Management Doug Spicer. Ms. Hill said in our flood study and all the talks about the flooding we talked about what it would take to get some lake level monitors. Todd Piepho from the DNR was able to come up with some possible funding and some costs on it. If you were looking at doing one on the Cannon River and the Whitewater River the unit itself would be about \$12,500 per unit and we could apply for assistance or a grant for that portion. Where the cost comes in is that there is a yearly maintenance fee on each one of them depending on what you want them to emit. The minimum is \$3,000 up to \$7,000. If you want them to hit flood stage and give a warning that is all they would do and that would be \$3,000 a year per unit. If you were looking at doing velocity and change and more statistical data that would be \$7,000 per year per unit.

Administration. Ms. Hill said she did some re-classifying expenditures for the change over from Ms. Stoering coming to City Hall full time vs part-time Police Department. She upgraded maintenance because we had a few issues.

Planning & Zoning. Ms. Hill said just normal inflation was increased.

EDA. Ms. Hill said she did not make much change there. The 2017 budget included the housing study.

Police Department. Ms. Hill said the equipment portion was the LETG, she did include the \$7,000 for the task force.

Fire Department. Ms. Hill said building expansion was included for \$200,000. You will also see principal and interest. She pulled the \$200,000 into an amortization schedule and applied a principal and interest payment. The net effect on the levy that is included is the principal and interest portion. Ms. Hill put \$18,000 in for a vehicle. Fire Chief Meskan has been looking at doing some modifications, getting the chassis and getting the rest of it from there. The \$18,000 is the price of the chassis.

Street Department. There is a memo from Mr. Peach that is looking at crack filling, mill and overlay and dust coating. The vehicle is the sweeper in the amount of \$130,000, which she did the same thing as with the Fire Department she netted it out as if we were going to borrow the money and factored in the principal and interest. The net effect on the levy would be principal and interest of about \$13,000.

Parks. The \$80,000 in the parks was for the boat landing improvements. The expansion of the boat landing. The DNR will allow pervious blacktop so we can modify that and hopefully lower the cost quite a bit compared to the impervious that we were looking at having to do. We would have to do a conditional use and they would look at it accordingly.

Mr. McIntyre questioned if the EDA would need any seed money for development. Ms. Hill said she does not know if we will or not, the study will help. If you get a developer, it would be an agreement between the developer and the City and what we can provide him.

Ms. Hill said what she presented is the exact same levy as you had last year, no increase. That is her base line. Then we go in and reevaluate things and she does have some cash flow analysis that she wants to work through. We have some bond issues that are closing, sometimes we have

excess money that can be moved around. 2018 expenses as presented \$2,084,291, 2018 revenue as presented \$1,590,522. Expenses over revenues \$493,769.

Mayor Schmidtke tentatively scheduled a budget work session on September 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. or possibly 6:00 p.m.

**5. Community Solar Garden Proposal.** Ms. Hill said she has two people that have been speaking to her about solar gardens. Ms. Hill gave Council a solar garden proposal which shows what impact it would make. Ms. Hill said it would have an impact on our budget but she does not know if it would be significant on a year to year basis. The subscriptions for the community solar garden and the offset would be like \$7,000 a year – you could gain \$7,000 in electric costs. Mr. Alan Wernke would like to present the proposal directly with Council. You would subscribe and you pay so much per watt and get a reimbursement. Discussion regarding solar gardens vs. wind mills. Council decided that Mr. Wernke can present to Council in November or after the first of the year.

**6. Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant approval.** Fire Chief Meskan said this is a DNR grant that we apply for every year and we finally got one for a matching grant of \$3,000/\$3,000. This would be for turn out gear. Motion McIntyre, seconded by Smith to approve the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**7. 3.2 Liquor License Request – Holy Trinity Catholic Church.** Motion by McIntyre, seconded by Wollin to approve the 3.2 liquor license request of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**8. Adjourn.** Motion by McIntyre, seconded by Smith to adjourn. Unanimous vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:15 p.m.

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Alan Schmidtke, Mayor

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Teresa Hill, Administrator/Clerk