

Village of Fall Creek

Minutes of Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee Meeting

October 4, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** 5:00 p.m., Village Hall Meeting Room, 122 E. Lincoln Ave., Fall Creek
2. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Village President Tim Raap, Trustees Ryan Aylesworth, Karen Herbison. Members Absent: Trustees Chester Goodman, Sheena Kaatz. Staff Present: Administrator/ Public Works Director Jared McKee, Clerk-Treasurer Renee Roemhild.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Certify Open Meeting Law Requirements Have Been Met:** A notice of the meeting and an agenda was posted at the three public places and local newspapers were notified.
5. **Adopt Agenda:**
 - MOTION (Herbison/Aylesworth) to adopt the agenda. PASSED, without negative vote.
6. **Recognition of Visitors/Citizen Input/Correspondence:** None.
7. **Old Business:**
 - A. **2024 Budget Work:** Work continued on the proposed 2024 budgets. Administrator Jared McKee detailed the budgets for each fund: *General Fund, Library Fund, Inland Lake District Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Tax Increment District #1 Fund, Tax Increment District #2 Fund, Capital Equipment/Repairs Fund, Water Department Fund, Sewer Department Fund, Garbage Service Fund.*

Overall summary included:

- A personnel time study was completed, resulting in reallocations of cost-share percentages for some payroll and expenses to make sure costs are reflected accurately.
- Balanced budget for *General Fund*. The shifting of cost allocations allowed some room for an increase in the contributions to the *Capital Funds (Capital Equipment/Repairs & Capital Projects)* which have been underfunded for years.
- Budgets for the *Enterprise Funds (Water, Sewer, and Garbage)* came in pretty well even with the adjusted cost-share reallocations. Water Fund was able to handle the increased costs better than the other two funds. Depreciation is partially funded in *Water Fund*, but not funded in *Sewer Fund*. *Garbage Fund* had to use some of their *Fund Balance* to deal with their shortfall.

Special highlights regarding revenues included:

- *General Fund Property Taxes* increased by about \$4,000 due to net new construction,
- *General Fund State Shared Revenue* increased by about \$50,000. Discussion took place on the difficulty municipalities have been put in since the State passed their levy limits, restricting a municipality's ability to adjust revenue even though inflation has caused a dramatic increase in expenses. Since the State was responsible for putting those restrictions in place, some additional assistance from them has been long overdue. However, there are inequalities used in the State's formula for distributing the pool of money they have designated for an increase in State Shared Revenue. For instance, the City of Augusta is very similar to us in size and assessed value and they got almost twice as much in additional State Shared Revenue as we did; also, the Village of Fairchild's population is about one-third the size of the Village of Fall Creek and yet they received an increase in Shared Revenue almost the same amount as ours. The increases are not proportioned fairly.

President Raap stated he asked our State Assembly Representative Karen Hurd to work for our Village and lobby that those inequalities get corrected.

- *General Fund Expenditure Restraint* was reduced to under \$1,500. It has decreased over the last several years from an amount that was over \$8,500. McKee stated he researched the State's formula for distribution and found that because the Village kept their mill rate down over the years, their portion of the expenditure restraint has decreased which is, in reality, penalizing the Village for holding the mill rate down.
- *General Fund Transportation Aids* is affected by a State formula that also does not work well for the Village. The 2024 proposed budget amount is down to only 65,750 from amounts of over 83,000 in 2020 and over 86,000 in 2018. Due to the way the amount is calculated, when we try to hold on projects because we don't have the money and don't want to borrow the money, we get less in State aid. It's a vicious cycle, we spend less so then we get even less in aid.

Special highlights regarding expenses included:

- Still don't have solid numbers on *Health Insurance*, but we used the best available numbers and it can be adjusted up until the time of the public hearing.
- *Ambulance* costs keep increasing. The County is currently doing a study to analyze whether they could take over the cost. We are hopeful for that.

B. Move to Convene in Closed Session Per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of Any Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility, namely, Discuss Individual Employee Performance. At the End of the Closed Session, the Board Will Be Going into Open Session to Conduct Further Business. Roll Call Vote on Motion to Convene into Closed Session.

- MOTION (Herbison/Aylesworth) @ 5:56 p.m. PASSED, roll call vote: Herbison-yes, Raap-yes, Aylesworth-yes. Clerk/Treasurer Renee Roemhild left the meeting and President Tim Raap finished taking the minutes.

C. Move to Return to Open Session and Action, if Any, on Matters Discussed in Closed Session.

- MOTION (Herbison/Aylesworth) @ 6:35 p.m. PASSED, roll call vote: Raap-yes, Aylesworth-yes, Herbison-yes.
- MOTION (Aylesworth/Herbison) to send the proposed 2024 to the full Board, asking Administrator McKee to articulate any changes made from this point on, but the Committee is done with their work on the budget. PASSED, without negative vote:

8. New Business: None.

9. Adjourn: @ 6:38 p.m.

Renee Roemhild, Clerk-Treasurer & Tim Raap, Village President