

TRUTH IN TAXATION
PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 10, 2007

The Bagley City Council held a Public Hearing on Truth In Taxation on December 10, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Present were Mayor LuWayne Loiland, Council Members Mark Edevold, John Sutherland, Karen TeHennepe, David G. Anderson and Clerk Treasurer Colleen R. Lindgren.

Also present were Ruby Bergquist, Sylvia Larson, Lillian Sauer, Jon Brovold, Howard and Diane Nowacki.

Discussion was held on the 2008 Proposed Budget. Clerk went over the City Hall proposed budget, explaining where the dollars are spent and what projects are paid for through levy dollars and through special assessments. J. Brovold asked if assessment come in as the lots are sold. Clerk explained that assessments are paid every year in the Industrial Park and in the area where he lives. If an empty lot is sold the assessments are to be paid. Mayor explained that the 2008 budget is increased by approximately \$29,388, which the 2007 Street project is \$30,511. Questions were answered on the Golf View Estates project and the airport improvement project. R. Bergquist asked what the Beautification Budget covered, which the Clerk then explained. Question was asked if it was really felt that all those flowers were needed. This could lower the taxes if they were dropped. Mayor Loiland explained that employees were given 50 cents per hour raise with 45 cents per hour put towards their benefit package.

Fire Department: increase of \$20.00 over last year.

Police Department: R. Bergquist asked about the K-9 Unit. She was told the City no longer has a K-9 dog so there is no need for funds. Officer Peterson does have a Search & Rescue dog but he provides all care for the dog. Clerk explained that the budget has decreased by \$6,000 in the contracting area, due to Officers will be doing more of their reports on computers, whereas the Sheriffs dispatchers were doing a lot of it before. Salaries are done by \$38,000 due to Former Chief Steve Haugen retiring. This would also make the benefits go down. One item added to the budget is under the legal budget for Family Advocacy. \$9,000 was put in for a squad car whereas last year \$4,000 was put in. This is an overall budget drop of close to \$50,000. J. Brovold asked what was found out on the combining of the Police Department and Sheriffs Dept. Sutherland stated that a committee has been established but with Chief Haugen retiring, it was decided to wait until the Officers could see how it worked with a three-man department. Brovold stated that as a City taxpayer and a County taxpayer he would like the Council to look into combining the departments.

Roads and Bridges: Mayor Loiland stated that the wages and benefits were increased the same as the other two departments. The budget increased by \$12,000, due to Capital expense going up. Capital expense includes money put aside for a truck, a truck for watering flowers and summer workers use, and a 2010 Street Improvement project. Snow removal help wages were increased also. The building payment is an annual payment towards a 0% interest loan for the new City garage.

Parks & Recreation: Mayor Loiland explained that the Council really did not know exactly what to do in this department. \$12,000 was put in for lifeguards and that was the big increase. Clerk explained that the Council listened to what the Park Task Group had found out on the park and some plans that citizens would like to see in the park. The \$12,000 was then taken out of the Lifeguard area and put into Park Improvements. Mayor Loiland said the Council has also looked at putting sewer and water down at the softball fields. Council member TeHennepe explained plans that have been looked and what was gone over and discussed at community meetings.

Cemetery: No changes in budget. Clerk explained who takes care of the cemetery and where the wages were spent.

Community Service Program: No changes.

Zoning Commission: No changes.

Economic Development. Mayor feels this is very important to keep in the budget, and to promote the city and what we have. Clerk explained that the City gives \$6,000 of this budget to the Bagley Industrial Development Commission for future work to be done in the industrial park.

Airport increased slightly. Dollars were put into the budget for a Departure Building, which the City pays 20% for it and the State Aeronautics pays 80%. This building is needed due to State Law mandates bathroom facilities. Use of the airport was discussed.

Clerk explained the Revenue, which the City receives.

R. Bergquist asked about the recent ordinance the Council passed on senior citizens and special assessments. Clerk was instructed to speak with City Attorney Rasmussen on whether or not this ordinance would cover the assessments already certified to the County on other projects.

Clerk explained the proposed revenue sheet.

Mayor stated that the City is looking at a 3.7% increase over last year. The Council is looking towards the future on what has to be done. They maybe could wash out that increase out to nothing by dropping some items, but consensus was to keep something in the funds for the future so there would not be such a large increase later. He is comfortable with what has been done.

Howard and Dianne Nowacki, Lomond Drive, got their tax statement and it was a surprise to them. He came tonight to see where his taxes were going. He suggested that maybe a few less flowers could be done to save a few dollars. He realizes it does take more money each year to run a City.

Being there was not further discussion to be heard, Mayor Loiland closed the Hearing at 8:07 p.m.

LuWayne Loiland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Colleen R. Lindgren, CMC
City Clerk Treasurer