

PUBLIC HEARING
TRUTH IN TAXATION
DECEMBER 1, 2008

The Bagley City Council held their Truth In Taxation Public Hearing on December 1, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Bagley City Hall.

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

Also present were Lief Haugen, Mike Haugen, Alton Theis, Duane Lewis, Dianne Horsley, Ruth & Maurice LaFontaine, Rita Bode, Janine Brand, Sidney Michel, Dianne Nowacki and Sylvia Larson.

Mayor Loiland welcomed all to the Public Hearing and stated that the proposed Budget for 2009 will be discussed.

Clerk Lindgren was asked to speak on behalf of the City Hall Budget. Main area for the budget is the City Wide Improvements. Clerk explained what each line item is and how much is to be spent towards projects in the City and that most of the projects do have special assessments coming back to the City on them. Mayor Loiland brought up the subject of wages for discussion. A step increase of \$1.00 was proposed for the City Bookkeeper for the duties that she does. He does not feel that a dollar is sufficient due to the fact she does the jobs already listed on her job description. He does feel she is underpaid but due to the economics of the City he would like to see that adjusted back to 50 cents per hour plus the percentage rate that the Council has chosen to move forward with. Sutherland asked about Jacobs being put on as Deputy Clerk and the Mayor said nothing has moved forward on this but he thought she was now Bookkeeper/Deputy Clerk, according to her job description. Clerk Lindgren explained that if she had to attend a Council Meeting in the absence of the City Clerk she must be appointed as Temporary Clerk to take the minutes. She cannot sign checks. Mayor stated that she does the things on her job description already so he would like to see the wage adjusted back. He said that he feels the public is wondering what people are getting because there is no wage per hour breakdown on the budgets. He explained how 91 cents per hour is what the health insurance has gone up for family and 34 cents per hour for single insurance. Lief Haugen asked if the bookkeeper was the only one taking a cut in wages. Mayor said this was a cost adjustment to make it more comparable with other entities in the City. Reading though the job description, the Mayor is comfortable cutting the adjustment in half. TeHennepe stated that the Job Description does not state that she is the Deputy Clerk. Sid Michel questions the Health Insurance. Clerk explained how and where the Insurance is gotten. Dianne Nowacki asked if the employees pay any of their insurance. Clerk explained that they do and how much.

Roads & Bridges Budget was discussed. Clerk informed the public that the City is putting away money for a water truck. Payments are also being made towards a plow truck, which the City has already gotten. A payment in the amount of \$44,444.52 is made to Garden Valley for an interest free loan to build the new street department garage. The street department is also in need of a new mower and trimmer. Mayor Loiland discussed the proposed wage increases. Questions were answered on summer help.

Fire Department budget went up. Mayor Loiland informed the public about the proposed purchase of a generator which is needed due to when the electricity goes out, the truck doors will still be able to open. The present siren is so old that parts cannot be gotten. J. Brand asked about dollars for fireworks. She was told that these are usually purchased with donations.

The Police Department budget was discussed. There is not a K9 in the City now, so no dollars were set-aside for this. Clerk explained that Office Peterson does have a dog that does tracking but he takes care of the expenses for it. \$5,000 is being put aside for the future purchase of a squad car. Wages & salaries were discussed. Dog Pound is under a separate budget.

Dog Pound budget was discussed. Clerk explained that whenever the County uses the pound, they are charges for services plus they get charged for half of the regular monthly expenses.

Park and Recreation Budget. Upgrades in the park and putting sewer and water in the Recreation Complex were discussed. Mayor stated that the budget has gone up substantially, but the Park &

Recreation Board has been working hard on doing upgrades in the Park but they do take money. The Recreation complex is also in need of bathrooms, which are being looked into. Mayor also said that Life Guards are being looked at for next year and that is a \$15,000 expense. There have not been any guards for a number of years and the Public was asked what their feelings are on having guards at the beach. The City has more liability when there are guards there. Janine Brand said that the young parents are the ones who should be asked the question. D. Nowacki does not think that guards are needed. M. Haugen said that his wife takes young people down there through her Foster System and she stays to watch them so why have guards when parents should be there. There have not had guards for four years so this would be a bad time to be spending the money. D. Lewis asked about the opening of the bathhouse when there aren't any guards. TeHennepe stated that the bathhouse was open last summer when the Park Attendants opened it. Edevold stated that the Park Board is planning on putting things in the swimming area for the public to use. Mayor Loiland said that the Park Board is working on what to put in the swimming area. J. Brand said that there have been improvements done on the beach area already with the it being expanded, the sitting shelter has been moved, and more picnic tables will be added in the spring. The Park Board is still looking at whether or not to put life guards or a security guard, they would like to keep the \$15,000 in the budget. Advertising will be done for guards. It cannot be assumed that all parents know how to swim or are responsible enough to stay with their children while they are swimming. S. Larson asked if only the City is responsible for the beach. It is the Cities responsibility. D. Lewis asked about a dollar fee put on for anyone who wants to swim at the beach. S. Michel said that if a fee is charged you almost would have to put a fence up in the area, and this would also create a liability. He hates to see all the money spent but it is a great asset to the City Park. D. Lewis agreed. Mayor Loiland stated that he is dead set against lifeguards because he feels the City is strapped for dollars and it is one place they could save on funds. J. Brand said that the \$15,000 could be spent in many different ways. It could be used at the ball fields and she again stated that the Park Board would like to see it kept in the Budget. Mayor Loiland stated that the City has infrastructure that needs to be done. J. Brand informed the group that what the Park Board is planning for in the near future, to purchase. The items are swimming docks, slides, boat ramp/fishing pier, and signage. There are grants being looked into.

M. LaFontaine asked if Hwy 92 was resurfaced from the lights to the old Jack & Jill building, would the State pay for it? Anderson told him that the City is looking into sidewalks in the area also. Mayor Loiland informed the group that there have been meetings with DOT on roads and sidewalks but no funding will come through until 2013. Part of the repair funds will have to come from the City.

No changes have been made with the City Cemetery. The Community Service program is one that the City pays into that is run by Clearwater County. This program is to have Sentence to Serve members do work within the City to work off their fines.

Zoning Commission. Commissioners have asked for a raise in meeting pay from \$25.00 per meeting to \$40.00 per meeting.

Economic Development. This budget has been dropped by \$8,000 in the Contracted services area.

Airport. The budget has been cut a little over half. The State Aeronautics Dept. has run out of funds for 2009. They usually participate in projects with an 80/20% contribution. M. LaFontaine asked if the DNR puts in any funds for using the airport. Clerk stated that they may use the airport but they do not put any funds into it.

Clerk explained where the City would receive funds to cover the expenses, which will be incurred in 2009.

Clerk was asked to bring the total dollar amounts received from Park reservations to the next Council meeting.

Mayor asked if there were any further questions from the Public.

Clerk explained a report on the difference between the 2008 and 2009 Budgets and Levy. Proposed Levy is an increase of 5.725%.

Mayor Loiland feels that the economy is not going to be good and is not going to get better, so he feels that it is very important to look at some of the things that may not be necessary. The biggest increase in budgets is in the City Hall and the Park and Recreation Budget is next. However, the City Hall budget will receive around \$51,000 special assessments.

Being there were no further questions, Mayor Loiland stated that a Continuation Meeting will not be held on December 8th but the budget will be discussed by the Council at their next regular meeting on December 9th at 7 p.m.

LuWayne Loiland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Colleen R. Lindgren, CMC
City Clerk Treasurer