

Mayor Ahrens called this meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Present were: Trustee Zaekse, Trustee Ruffulo, Trustee Bartels, Trustee Scarpelli, Trustee VanOstenbridge and Mayor Ahrens.

Absent: Trustee Schock

Others present: Village Administrator Bowden, Chief Pena, Director of Public Works Kitzmiller, Financial Consultant Dave Jepson, Lt Blahnik and Nikki Giles were also in attendance. Attorney Morrow arrived at approximately 7:15.

After a brief introduction, Village Administrator Bowden turned the floor over to Dave Jepson. Mr. Jepson provided an update on sales tax revenue that the Village has received, and stated that he feels that the decline of the sales tax receipts is ending. Also, originally Mr. Jepson estimated that the home rule sales tax would be about 49% of municipal sales tax and so far this has proven to be conservative. The finance department will continue to monitor these receipts.

Village Administrator Bowden then apprised the Board on the health insurance renewal quotes. The overall increase of both the health and dental renewal rates was about 2.23%. Currently the Village pays 100% of the employee premium and all HMO premiums, and 90% of dependent coverage under the PPO. Village Administrator Bowden proposes that the Village pay only 95% of the employee PPO premium. Another cost-saving suggestion he proposes is to offer Village employees an incentive for waiving health insurance or switching from the PPO to the HMO. The incentive would be 50% of the savings. Future recommendations include sharing a quarter of savings with the employees next year and then transitioning to the Village paying for the HMO premiums only; employees remaining with the PPO would be responsible for the difference between the HMO and PPO premiums, or possibly implementing a per-employee cap. Trustee Scarpelli offered to forward some information on a self-insured dental plan for future investigation.

**Recommendation by Ruffulo/Zaeske to recommend to the full board to proceed with the plan as presented. A voice vote was unanimous.**

Village Administrator Bowden then reviewed the highlights of the budget pertaining to the administrative departments, including any major increases and changes within administrative, building, finance and economic developments. Per Trustee VanOstenbridge's suggestion, \$25,000 will be included to replace the Village sign.

Chief Pena briefed the Board on changes within the police department. There is an increase reflected in the police pension contribution and a decrease in the dispatch expenses, which will be used to offset the projected cost increase of fuel. Chief Pena advised that by adding an additional officer, both overtime and part time costs would be reduced. Trustee Scarpelli asked about mutual aid agreements and when the new officer would be hired. General discussion followed about the purchase of the squad cars for the police department and the transfer of the Dodge vehicle to the public works department.

Director of Public Works Kitzmiller advised the additional employee he has budgeted for the in the street department would be split 50/25/25 between the street, water and sewer departments. Kitzmiller explained that the additional employee would also reduce overtime and seasonal employee expenses within these departments. Other highlights include the addition of the stream bank maintenance line item, the anticipation of the an increase in our refuse disposal contract as it comes to an end and will need to be renegotiated, and the decrease in Buildings and Grounds expenditures over previous years because of completed projects.

In the Street and Bridge department, a new line item has been added for Springcrest Beautification and the culvert will not be done because the anticipated grant did not come through. The Motor Fuel Tax fund reflects \$75,000 budgeted for the Van Buren FAU route and \$161,000 for the 2005 Street System program. The Capital Improvement Fund has already been presented, and there was general discussion on some of the requests. The water operating and water capital improvement funds have been combined and the revenues reflect the \$ .40 per thousand gallon increase as per year 3 of the 3-year plan. The sewer operating, sewer capital improvement and the IEPA loan funds were also combined. Sewer revenues reflect a \$.25 per thousand gallon increase. Trustee Scarpelli suggested the \$.25 increase be carefully reviewed to make sure it is sufficient as expenses are anticipated to exceed revenues by about \$70,000 in the 2005/2006 budget year.

Chief Pena inquired about the amount budgeted for legal fees in the event of collective bargaining.

Mr. Jepson reviewed the budget changes that will be incorporated based on tonight's comments.

**Motion by Ruffulo/Bartels to schedule a public hearing on April 4, 2005 for the 2005/2006 budget and to bring the budget as presented before the full board at the April 4, 2005 meeting. A voice vote was unanimous.**

Trustee VanOstenbridge addressed issue of board packets being delivered. Chief Pena advised he would continue to deliver the packets as a courtesy. Several trustees advised they would pick up their board packets at the Village Hall. Chief Pena will address this issue at the upcoming board meeting under his business for formal direction.

**Motion by VanOstenbridge/Scarpelli to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Litigation. A voice vote was unanimous.**

President Ahrens recalled the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Trustee Zaekse, Trustee Ruffulo, Trustee Bartels, Trustee Scarpelli, Trustee VanOstenbridge and Mayor Ahrens.

Adjournment on motion by VanOstenbridge/Bartels.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nikki Giles  
Finance Supervisor