



MINUTES
Budget Workshop
October 14, 2020
5:00 p.m.
(TELECONFERENCE)

THOSE PRESENT

Mayor Bob Poch
Councilmember Fred Netzel
Councilmember Mervin Schmidt
Councilmember Dale Rey
Councilmember Larry Hall
Councilmember Keith St. Jeor

Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden
Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens

Mayor Bob Poch opened the workshop at 5:03 p.m.

As requested by Fred Netzel, the first fund discussed was Wastewater. Dale Rey asked about the unreimbursed expenditures for the Treatment Plant Project that Varela Engineers had itemized in a handout. The Clerk explained that the Town has paid for several items, totaling about \$200,000, with Town funds that should be allowable under the USDA RD funds but have not been submitted for reimbursement yet. They are items that were intended to be paid out of contingency funds near the end of the project. Rey asked if it is known as to why there is such an overage. The Clerk feels it is due to the change orders and project delay costs but would need a better explanation from the engineers. Rey asked Mayor Poch if we are waiting until the first loan payment is made to begin pursuing payment from Elmer City. Mayor Poch said that he has already started discussions with Elmer City and is trying to get a meeting set up. Rey asked if Elmer City is "aware of their options...they either negotiate a reasonable settlement or end up in court"? Mayor Poch replied with "I'm thinking they are very aware".

Rey asked the Clerk about the deficit in the Water Reserve Fund. The Clerk explained it was due to a large transfer out of the reserve fund into the operating fund to cover some repairs to the water system.

Fred Netzel asked about design changes with the West Side Lift Station and if the costs are known. He asked if cost estimates are done or is there is "more coming our way". Superintendent Mike Steffens talked with the engineer earlier in the day. They are working on a couple of options, one being a new lift station being placed next to the existing one.

Keith St. Jeor suggested that the Town try to pay off the 40 year USDA loan early to save on interest.


Dale Rey mentioned that labor negotiations are coming up and it will be hard to budget salaries until it is settled. Fred Netzel asked if negotiations will be taking place "on the clock".

Mayor Poch asked each councilmember what they would like to see addressed during the budget season. Fred Netzel asked what the final bill will be regarding the Comprehensive Plan. Mervin Schmidt would like to

discuss tree maintenance and feels the trees need more care than what they have been receiving. Superintendent Mike Steffens told the council that contractors are hired for tree trimming when it pertains to electrical line clearance. All other trimming is done by the Town Maintenance Crew. Dale Rey would like to look closely at snow removal due to the predictions of a lot of snow this year.

ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Workshop meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Mayor  Clerk 