

Village of Lodgepole
PO Box 266 630 Orchard st
Lodgepole, NE 69149

Minutes of Special Budget Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2023
Panther Activity Center (PAC)
630 Orchard Street, Lodgepole, NE 69149

Board Members

Present: RJ Savely, Brenda Parsons, Gwen Devie, Mark Bartling.

Absent: Ron Shellhorn

Proceedings Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair, RJ Savely.

Community Comments NONE

Consent Agenda

Approval of Claims, August 1-10, 2023 - Approved as Corrected

Budget Workshop

Julie Peetz - Conducted the Workshop portion with the goal being to construct a tentative FY-2023-24 to be presented at the September Board Meeting.

Handouts of a Cash Summary were distributed to facilitate composing the budget. Our deadline meeting finalization date is Sept 20th.

Julie stated the market surveys show the Lodgepole sewer rates are too low and that measures should be taken to bring them into alignment with rates of other municipalities.

Library personnel were in attendance: Dana Hill and Dianna Bruns. Discussion followed regarding the upcoming minimum wage of \$12.50/hour. Budgeted hours and wages were adjusted upward accordingly. Training meetings and travel were also taken into consideration. Gwen Devie offered that the \$1100 twice per year allowance to the library be incorporated as a line item of \$2200 in their general budget. This would eliminate the need to disburse and redeposit funds and the money would be there to use as they needed. The representatives concurred.

Old Settlers Days

Dana Hill requested the traditional \$500 donation be paid to Old Settlers Days Committee. This organization has its own 501c3. Gwen Devie stated there is also a \$6000 donation collected from the Buckley Trust. Which is usually paid directly to Village of Lodgepole and then disbursed to Old Settlers Days for their use. In addition, the Village of Lodgepole allows the Old Settlers event to use Village liability insurance and purchase additional riders as advised by the insurance company.

Board Vote all Yes for these requests.

Cemetery personnel were in attendance: Tom Weber and Cindy Olivarius. It was stated that the Cemetery does have their line item of \$2200. Income and expense documentation was available. Lodgepole will look at payroll records to determine if the Clerk and Maintenance splits were being distributed from sale of plots and services. Current costs show rates of \$100 for cremation and \$500 for burial open/close. Lodgepole will consider fee increases.

Library and Cemetery staff were excused and discussion continued to other departments. Lodgepole will look at payroll records to determine if the Clerk and Maintenance splits continue being distributed as budgeted prior.

Parks should show labor savings this coming FY due to sprinkler installation. Streets has an Audit Waiver for \$500K line item that we have not touched earmarked for major repairs. Matt Lofton said we should start using this money as soon as possible on McCall Street in accordance with bids already obtained.

Visions is allocated under Lodgepole and the Village cannot use this money as needed.

Water Fund: The new system is not working. Causes are associated with problems, yet undetermined, with the old water system and its interface with the new.

Analysis of payments for water system expense needs to be taken to determine actuals and when the old grant will be paid off.

Concerns were heard from Brenda Parsons regarding the time on hand and work needed to construct an accurate new budget.

Julie Peetz proposed to carry-forward the prior year budget numbers to construct the FY23-24 budget. Julie will put this information together for us as soon as possible. If we cannot meet our deadlines for the September meeting, we will have to hold a special meeting.

Brenda Parsons has been working on Codification and has a cost quote of \$7245. We should keep this project under consideration.

Gwen proposed we set a special meeting on August 29, 2023 at 7pm to consider Human Resource issues. Board all Yes on this request.

Session Adjourned 9:22 pm.
R.J. Savely

Submitted Linda Hardeman, August 30, 2023. Amended September 20, 2023, as per meeting September 5, 2023.