

AUGUST 11, 2021

A Special Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. Trustees Mark Dunn and David Enke were absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen was also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the Special meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to begin work on the 2022 budget for the City of Lake Benton.

Copies of the 2022 Budget Worksheet were passed out. The Council reviewed the notes regarding the recent appraisal of the buildings and contents on the following: Event Center from \$97,531.00 to \$511,500.00 based on the correct size of the building, the Lakeshore Drive Sewer Lift Station from \$35,698.00 to \$57,100.00, and the Parkview Drive Generator Building from \$26,760.00 to \$75,800.00; and increased the Contents Limits of the Library from \$78,777.00 to \$389,500.00 in the case there is a fire or tornado that destroys the books. These were the largest increases and City staff attempted to work with the insurance underwriter to decrease them somewhat. Due to the current appraisal, the following were increased until the final quotes are presented: Property 20%, Liability 5%, and Auto 5%. The workers comp was approximately \$6,000.00 less than the previous year. Thor Tollefson's Work Comp claim will increase the Experienced Modification Rate in 2022, 2023 & 2024, thus increasing the totals.

The figures for the City's 2022 LGA of \$254,6122.00 and PERA Aid of \$841.00 were inserted as well as all the numbers in the General, TIF, Fire, Library, Water, Sewer and Garbage Funds. City Administrator Clerk Eileen Christensen worked with the Department Heads, and members of the Chamber-CVB, Parks/Rec, EDA and Historical Society.

Wage increases were entered at 3% for City staff. The health insurance rates were increased 13% per employees which is not a valid number until we receive the correct amount. The City belongs to a pool for health insurance through Southwest West Central Cooperative (SWWC) in which the City receives an annual reimbursement from money held in escrow. This amount was used in 2018 to create a Select Account-HRA fund for the three (3) full-time employees. The Council made a policy to approve a minimum amount of \$50.00 per year/per employee. The Council again agreed to contribute \$1,650.00 to each employee's HSA Account due to the decrease in health insurance premiums and the increased employee's deductible.

Additional 12-month CD's to be created in the General Fund included the following: \$1,000.00 for City Office Improvements, \$10,000.00 for Street Repairs (Sealcoating and Repairs), \$5,000.00 for Street Capital Outlay, \$2,000.00 for fencing (last year), and \$2,500.00 Parks/Ballfields for Lakeside Park Improvements. An account was set up for the Public Works Capital Outlay and Public Works Heavy Equipment in 2018. The amount to be transferred will be approved in December.

Additional 12-month CD's to be created in the Fire Fund included \$3,000.00 for Capital Outlay/Equipment, \$5,000.00 for Capital Outlay/Building Fund, and \$7,000.00 for Capital Outlay/Turnout Gear. The Library Allocation remained the same at \$28,000.00.

The Council will meet again August 12, 2021 to complete the water, sewer and garbage funds, and review the funds discussed this evening. The Council would like to meet again in mid-September to review the numbers when all the quotes have been inserted.

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to continue the 2022 budget meeting on August 12, 2021. Motion carried.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK