

**VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS**  
**October 24, 2023**

The Village of Osceola met for a Special meeting on October 24, 2023, at Village Hall. Village President Brad Lutz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Brad Lutz, Bruce Gilliland, Neil Kline, Van Burch, and Arvid Maki

Absent: Bill Chantelois IV

Staff present: Devin Swanberg, Carie Krentz, Tanya Batchelor, Ron Pedrys and Andrew Bach

Motion by Burch and seconded by Gilliland to approve agenda.

Ayes- 5            Nay-0            Motion carried

**2024 Budget Work Session**

Swanberg's first time going through the complete budget process here at Osceola. He and Batchelor started working on the budget beginning in July. The budget shows accurate numbers for full 9 months of 2023 to help with determining 2024 budget. Have been cautious on revenues and over on expenditures at this point and assumptions made are: 10% health insurance increase and 5% wage increase. Discussion took place regarding health insurance increase.

**Revenues & Expenses:**

Batchelor and Swanberg went over preliminary numbers for levy limit and discussion took place on revenues. Batchelor stated Village does not qualify for Expenditure Restraint and by not qualifying in 2024, the Village will not qualify in 2025. Also, tower rentals need to be moved from general fund to utilities, so those revenues come off for 2024. Swanberg stated that sale of assets will help close the gap.

Scenarios were discussed for possible options to cover deficit, such as a borrow for 1-year for maintenance items that are highlighted in blue throughout the budget worksheets. It was requested of staff to get those figures that would go on tax payers bills. No decisions for additional revenue are going to be easy, with all expenses increasing we need to look at all options.

Batchelor asked about the \$7,500 to the Airport and their portion of G.O. Debt. Board members stated the \$7,500 for the Airport is for funds matching for FAA funding and asked staff to look into before next meeting. The Library amount is statutorily required to be provided. Skipped Fire Department and requested Paul Elfstrom be present at the next budget meeting. Discussion took place on the status of the Court, which is needed to enforce the Village Code. Swanberg gave a brief overview trying to combine courts with City of St. Croix Falls, due to us having a clerk of courts and them having a Judge. At this time the Administrator there did not want to proceed with this option due to our tickets being down, which is due to low staffing. Pedrys gave a rundown of the Police budget. Items pointed out were wages, training budget, and part-time wages. Wages are listed with the department being fully staffed and an officer going from a patrol officer to a lieutenant. Part-time wages also help with events that require an officers presence and working those events. Other options were discussed for staffing of these events. There was a directive to lower part-time wages. Also, look at other services and fees the Village charges, which includes hanging banners. Public Works has the assumption of a 5% to wages with everything else mainly remaining the same with the exception of budgeting more for snow plow removal due to issues we had last winter. Discussion took place on Village plowing township roads and working with the Township on Simmons Road and using the grant that has been received. Need to address the MOU with Township on plowing road. All departments are working hard to keep their operating budgets down as much as possible. Discussion on wages and where is it spent for Public Works. Creating a storm water utility was discussed due to currently not having funds set aside for our streets/curbs/gutters. Board members would like staff to continue looking at this option to avoid having residences being special assessed if an issue arises. Swanberg went over economic development and how this effects the budget and where we can improve overall. He is looking to change Village Code by taking the fees out of code and reference a fee schedule, which would allow updates without changing code.

Swanberg stated we were showing a deficit of \$265,000 as compared to last year at this time of a deficit of \$455,000. He feels revenues are accurate and went over options to balance budget such as (1) borrow measure of approximately \$155,000 for one-year to cover maintenance items, which would go on tax levy; (2) funds remaining

from TID #2 closure; (3) land sales (currently have 3 potentially closing this year, however they would be one off revenue streams); and (4) sale of properties we no longer want to maintain, such as water park land. Discussion took place on these options and board asked for more information on what it would mean to tax payers. Trustees wanted to see different scenarios in wage increase and for different departments and positions. Kline brought up a discussion of pay to Board members. Discussion that the \$3,000 pay is small in comparison to time and energy required. More discussion on all options and direction given to staff to look closer at these options.

Swanberg has been working with MSA on capital budget for our borrow in 2024. MSA will be reaching out to all department heads this coming week on what they need for their capital budgets.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Maki to go into close session proceedings at 8:18 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statue 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. This pertains to 2023 employee wages.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Kline, Burch, Lutz, Gilliland, Maki                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to come out of close session proceedings.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Kline, Burch, Lutz, Gilliland, Maki                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Maki to approve the pay rate change as discussed in Closed Session.

Roll call vote: Ayes, Kline, Burch, Lutz, Gilliland, Maki                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

**Future agenda items and updates**

n/a

President Lutz adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Carie Krentz, Village Clerk