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THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
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THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
September 28, 2009**

Present: Trustees Haas, Azpell, Schoenecker, Torkelson, Nelson, and Meser. President Palmer excused.

Also Present: Village Manager David De Angelis, Village Clerk Mary Stredni, Finance Director Monica Hughes, and Zoning/Planning Administrator Jessi Balcom. Also Martha Kindler and Glen Porter Finance and Licensing Committee and the press.

ROLL CALL

Village Clerk Mary Stredni took the roll. Trustees Schoenecker and Torkelson moved and seconded to appoint Trustee Haas as president pro tem in President Palmer absence. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ON 2010 BUDGET

Reviewed the preliminary draft summary of the 2010 budget. Trustee Schoenecker question why the police department has 8 vehicles. De Angelis explained that the police chief, detective, and K-9 unit each have a vehicle, there are 3 regular patrol cars, one administrative car, and one supervisor (Expedition) car. The rotation of new vehicles in the past was two new vehicles every year; Chief Gage has changed that to one new vehicle – two new vehicles – one new vehicle thereby keeping some of the vehicles longer. Question regarding when the K-9 retires will there still be a need for that vehicle. Can the police department not purchase two new vehicles in 2010 but purchase only one and purchase the second one in early 2011.

Trustee Nelson questioned the vehicle use productivity; can a service be cut to have less mileage; should officers be driving to what they are driving to? Questioned whether an assessment has been done regarding the police department. According to the Municipal Facts 09 Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance the Village of Elm Grove is very high in per capita spending for police. De Angelis stated that the majority of the police department operation cost is in salaries and benefits.

De Angelis reviewed the estimated changes in revenue sources for the general fund; there is a decrease in state shared revenue, decrease in expenditure restraint payments, and decrease in state general transportation aides. Due to the economy there is also an expected decrease in permits, and a decrease in investment earnings. The total expected decrease in revenue is \$96,031. He also

reviewed the estimated changes in expenditures: decrease in general government due to change in staffing, decrease in part time police clerical position, decrease in inspections, decrease in fuel costs from 2009; and increases in WRS, health insurance, utilities, elections, business insurance, new equipment, recreation, and proposed new volunteer recognition event. The total estimated increase in expenditures is \$21,500. Taking into account the expected decrease in revenue sources of \$96,031 and expected increase of expenditures of \$21,500 to fund the draft budget would require a tax levy increase of \$117,531 for the general fund.

Trustee Torkelson suggested that fees be reviewed. Many communities are raising fees and/or adding new fees. Also asked if there could be cuts to employees who are hourly. De Angelis noted that general government has cut the two hourly front office positions from 77.75 hours a week in 2008 to 60 hours a week in 2009 and a further reduction to 40 to 44 hours a week in 2010 is already reflected in the draft budget. The draft budget also includes a reduction of 4 hours a week for a part time police department clerical person. The Library only has two full time positions; the rest are part time at less than 30 hours a week.

President pro tem Haas stated that the funding for one fire truck could be pushed out one year.

Discussion regarding what is needed versus what is wanted. Trustee Meser stated that all picnic tables could be removed from the 5 year capital budget. Discussion regarding removing the community room tables and chairs. Trustee Schoenecker will talk to the Elm Grove Foundation regarding picnic tables. Will ask for donations and put on wish list picnic tables and community room tables and chairs

Trustee Schoenecker opined a lot has been spent on the municipal water study. Stated belief that no more should be spent; the downtown business owners don't need an exact amount to determine whether they will commit to getting municipal water. We should wait until it is know whether the project will go forward before spending anymore. De Angelis explained that commitment letters need to be specific. If the dollar amount is more everything becomes invalid. Staff has just received updated dollar amounts from Ehlers and Ruckert Mielke. The Ad Hoc Water Committee will be reviewing and making recommendations to the Village Board this month. Commitment letters are expected to go out in January.

Trustee Schoenecker stated belief that in 2010 the Board of Trustees should look at the police department services and operation expenses. Trustee Nelson stated that all services should be reviewed in 2010. There is no need for an outside study but everything must be reviewed and separate the 'needs' from the 'wants'. De Angelis stated that several years ago an internal organizational study was done to track hours spent on all tasks. That study can be updated for 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consensus of the committee to change the draft budget as follows:

Transfer estimated 2009 surplus in general government to 5 year cap	\$40,000
Use funds from sale of federal credits to Butler for Watertown Plank Bridge	\$60,000
Move 2010 and 2011 building updates – library carpeting – out one year	\$12,000
Move replacement of telephone system from 2010 to 2011	\$12,000
Move funding of 2 nd fire truck engine out one year	\$13,550
Eliminate funding for Community room tables and chairs	\$ 3,100
Eliminate all funding for picnic tables	\$17,460
Eliminate police new equipment lockers	\$ 5,000
Eliminate proposed volunteer recognition	\$ 5,000
Reduce levy for future debt prepayment from \$250,000 to \$200,000	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total reduction	\$218,110

ADJOURN

Trustees Meser and Nelson moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Stredni
Village Clerk

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