

Village of Westville
Special Meeting
March 01, 2023 **6:00pm**

Mayor Weese called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present: Trustees Sandlin, Hughes, Delhaye, Ellis, McFadden, Gallion, Treasurer Larson and Village Clerk Slavik. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Hughes; second by Delhaye. Motion carried.

Larson explained the draft budget and said that he and Delhaye figured a percentage scale to decide which fund to charge certain items to: 45% Gas, 40% Village and 10% Water and 5% WWDZ. This scenario shows breaking even, but they may have to increase the cost of water a bit.

Delhaye had reviewed with Mike Bennett for all departments except for Police. He explained some other line items. Ellis asked about the ditch project to clean up trees by the tracks over by Hickman. Gallion and Weese understood the pile of trees was up to us to clean up. They may ask Randy Slider if they can burn those on his property. They can be separated into smaller piles with the backhoe. For Trinity, they are waiting for a quote still, but hoped to get that done in this budget, also.

McFadden asked if we are keeping six officers; Weese checked with Ellis, and there will be 6 officers until the end of July when Booe retires.

Gallion brought discussion on the amounts for the tennis court and basketball court. In sidewalks they intend to run the sidewalk from Williams and connecting the two pavilions and the other was to run it to the other playground set. They will also need a ramp. If they want the playgrounds connected, it would be both amounts. Comparing the lifespan of concrete to asphalt, concrete is more expensive but will not have to be sealed; concrete will not sink, will not crack, and should last around 40-50 years. Gallion already told the Lions Club there will be no more tents on the court after it is repaired. It'll be lined to have tennis on one side and pickle ball on the other side. Chad Alvarez would need to know soon if we have any jobs for this year, because he has a big job at the high school.

Delhaye said they budgeted for gas and water meter upgrades and \$65,000.00 for asphalt for the Village Hall and around the drive-up. They will put two dump trucks in the budget. McFadden said we should be looking for a chassis. Weese agreed. We are keeping the engine out of the old truck, as well.

Hughes is thankful for the extra \$10,000.00 in the budget, but she said Mike Davis reached out to communities to see if he can get a \$20,000.00 commitment annually towards demolitions.

He said we need to decide sooner rather than later because the grant funds will be coming soon. Mary Ann feels our return will be greater than our investment to get the horrible buildings torn down. Larson said we put \$25,000.00 in the demolition/street-alley repair/signs. Gallion asked Hughes if she can get the average cost to tear down a property. Hughes said they group them together to get a better price.

Delhaye asked if we had heard anything from Bryant about a downtown building. We have not and taxes aren't being paid, so Weese said it may end up in our lap. Ellis asked about the new squad car; Varvel said Rahn Equipment ordered some items for the car but we have not been billed yet. Larson said there is \$75,000.00 in supplies in the budget that'll pay for that, but other misc. items come out of PNT. Varvel said the cameras they bought this year are being installed. Ellis said we will get money from the county. Vic said it may be a while. Delhaye asked Varvel about flashing speed signs. Varvel likes something Progressive Chemical has (pedestrian crosswalk signs), our guys could install (solar and it flashes around the sign). Weese said we need to get a crosswalk painted there; Varvel will check with the engineer. Varvel looked at grants a few years ago from IDOT for schools and between 55mph and 20mph there is a certain distance that must be adhered to.

Ellis wanted to discuss a new police station; there would be engineering involved. In the Georgetown Business District Funding, their alderman (Waterman) had said they had taken a percentage of the monthly revenue and put it in a fund to build their station. Ellis wants to see what it would cost. Larson said they put \$65k to renovate the parking lot and they wouldn't want to tear it up if a building is going on top of that area. Weese said they could put tar & chip. Weese said we could take funds out of gaming each year to put in towards a station. Larson said maybe we could use some of the gaming money for meters to keep the rates low. Ellis asked about the storm drain in the middle of the parking lot. Weese said they could look at both ways...adding on to Village Hall or building new. Varvel suggests we have someone look at our current setup and tell us what we can or could not do, and he said there are grants, but we have to have the idea set up first before they reduce the cost to the Village. There was discussion on how to cover paying for a new police station. They can use part of the \$65,000.00 to get a study done and plans done. Delhaye said we are still waiting for the \$50,000.00 from the state on the playground equipment grant. Gallion said it is a 3-month process, as the paperwork has to go through several people and then cross the Governor's desk.

Ellis said it will be \$750.00 each to have lettering applied two squad cars; that money will come out of PNT. There is money in there for training. Varvel said they want two more hand-held radars; they only have two now and they are cigarette lighter powered and are wearing out because they have to pull them out and plug them in other vehicles all the time. Furat is giving them a quote to upgrade the 3 computers they have because they are outdated. Varvel said it'll be around \$17,000.00 for the remaining cameras they must have by 2025, so they'll get them out of this budget so that they don't fall behind. Weese had asked the state rep to look into

monies for what we have spent on cameras and storage, and he has not received an answer yet. Ellis said we had \$140,000.00 and we used \$25,000.00 for the used Catlin squad car, cameras, etc. Ellis said we need to order the other two squad cameras and two body cameras out of the current budget. Varvel said the car ones are \$7,000.00 each and the body cameras are about \$2,000.00 each. This way they can just budget for the computers and hand-held radars in the new budget. Delhaye said the training for the PW men is also in the budget and there is a lot of training coming up this year. Ellis asked about AQUA raising the rate; Weese said they got the solar panels installed and they were supposed to freeze the rate increase for 3 years. If there is an increase our ordinance requires us to pass the cost on.

Ellis said someone from WBSD wonders if they drop their maintenance fee if the Village will drop their fee. Weese said we have a maintenance fee for storm sewers that we can't drop because we still have storm sewers to repair.

There was a discussion on wages. They need another employee at the garage. McFadden asked Travis Mains to find an insurance plan for vision and dental that the Village would not pay the premiums for. Larson said there is no incentive for people to stay in the Village (except insurance). It takes 10 years to be vested in IMRF. He thought maybe give everyone \$10.00 per year of service on May 1st each year. Varvel said the county pays that every month.

The board will look over the budget presented and if there are any other changes or additions, they will get in touch with Mike Larson. There will be a Special Meeting March 08, 2023 at 6:00pm to take another look at the changes and additions mentioned this evening.

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:21p.m. Motion by Sandlin; second by Gallion. Meeting adjourned.