

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Budget Hearing Meeting of February 9, 2019

8:00 am

Present: Committee Chairman Mike Vanni, Council President Bob Patton and Council members Charlie Malta, Bob Reho, Ken Pintar, Ann Turk and Monica Koudela.  
Also present: Mayor/Safety Director Regovich and Finance Director Benedict.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Chairman Vanni.

8:03 – 9:30 am

Mayor Regovich and Finance Director Benedict provided an overall summary of the 2019 budget. The main take from the presentation was that we continue to deficit spend; any potential wage increases have not been included in the 2019 proposed budget; and the General Fund / EMS Fund is being changed from a 53% / 47% split to 55% General Fund and 45% EMS split in 2019. We are hoping that we will not have to change the split again next year. However, it will all depend on any potential wage increases. In addition to the General Fund, all of the operating funds are nearing their breaking point including the SCM & R Fund, the EMS Fund, the Street Lighting Fund, and the Senior Citizens Fund.

9:45 – 10:01 a.m.

Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Sean Brennan provided an overview of the proposed Building Department budget. Discussion again centered on his need for an additional full-time employee which is unable to be approved for 2019 due to the failure of the income tax levy.

10:02 – 11:24 a.m.

Service Director Rob Pauley provided an overview of the proposed Service Department budget. Notable items were the number of capital improvements that have been deferred over the years due to the low balance in the General Fund. Council will have to take a serious look at how we are going to purchase these much-needed items over the next two years.

11:30 a.m. – 12:28 p.m.

Police Chief Brian Turner provided an overview of the proposed Police Department budget. The Chief proposed to hire a Lieutenant for the Detective Bureau. However, this item was removed due to budget constraints. Reduced costs are expected in prisoner care due to an emphasis on giving personal bonds to arrested persons, thus reducing the number of prisoners that are housed. The proposed overtime allowance has been cut back. However, this is difficult due to the Department being down one officer as a result of an injury.

1:02 – 1:32 p.m.

Recreation Director Julie Kless provided an overview of the Recreation Department and the Senior Center budgets. Discussion centered on the fees being increased this year for camp so that

now no subsidies are being taken out of the General Fund. Program Guides will no longer be mailed out due to budget constraints. It will be on the City's website with hard copies being available at Manry. We are currently looking at having Laketran provide all transportation for the Rec Department and Senior Center which could provide a savings of approximately \$13,000. Julie also indicated that the gym at Manry is in need of new lights. The cost is \$4,100, and we may be eligible for a discount from First Energy. This item is currently not in the proposed budget but may need to be added at a later date.

1:35 – 2:05 p.m.

Fire Chief Robert Posipanka provided an overview of the proposed Fire Department budget. The major takeaway from the presentation was that Council will be looking at re-assessing what the City is currently charging for ambulance runs. We are at the low end when compared to what other cities charge.

2:05 – 2:10 p.m.

A brief wrap-up of the day's discussions was given by Committee Chairman Vanni, noting that Council has some difficult decisions to make in the immediate future in light of the failure of the income tax levy.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Vanni, Chairman  
Budget Committee, Willowick City Council