

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bird Island City Council  
December 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

Council members present: Sander, Prokosch, Wolff, Engelmann

The Budget/Levy Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Sander.

The 2018 proposed Budget is \$1,912,482 (includes utilities), with a total 2018 Levy of \$475,527; a 4% increase from 2017. As there were no questions or comments from the Public, the hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Sander.

Following questions/answers regarding some of the claims, a motion was made by Wolff and seconded by Prokosch to authorize payment of the claims and to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting and public hearing on the proposed 2018/2019 Street and Utility Improvements. Passed unanimously.

Resolution 13-17      A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve Resolution 13-17, adopting the 2018 Budget and Payable 2018 Final Levy. Passed unanimously.

Tree Stump Policy      There was a question as to if/when the City would remove tree stumps on the boulevard. According to written policy, the City will only remove tree stumps on boulevards when the stump is interfering with city-maintained sidewalks and/or curbs, or when being reimbursed by a third party.

Resolution 15-17      Concern was raised as to the location of the 60 mph speed limit sign on the west end of town; and that, with the addition of the Kibble Equipment and S.J. Jacobs & Sons' buildings, the speed limit should remain at 30 mph for a longer distance. Before MnDOT will consider a change in speed limits, they require that a speed study be completed via a request from the affected local jurisdiction. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to adopt Resolution 15-17, requesting that MnDOT do a speed study on the west end of town, beginning at 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Passed unanimously.

I&I/Televising Report      Woelfel reported on the results of the televising of sewer/storm lines near Ranchwood, Grove, 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the Fairgrounds. No cross connections were found. The PVC sanitary sewer line under Ranchwood has some bad joints with some infiltration issues; however, it was felt that replacement of the line could wait another ten years. The grove sewer line looks good with a lot of grass clippings present. The 5<sup>th</sup> Street storm line looks good; therefore, replacement can be deleted from the upcoming project. The 10" storm line in the Fairgrounds is not functioning properly and a solution will be needed to avoid flooding the Ranchwood area with surface water from the north. Woelfel will meet with representatives of the Renville County Ag Society Board to discuss the issue. Regarding a back-up insurance claim that was filed, the adjuster found no negligence on the City's part and denied the claim. With no further cross connections being found, it was stated that the sump pump ordinance should be aggressively enforced.

2018/2019 Street/Utility Improvements      Discussion continued on whether or not to include the Ranchwood street/utility improvements in the upcoming project. The results of the survey (19 mailed) showed that of the 17 received, 16 were against including Ranchwood, and one undecided. In reviewing which streets were constructed and/or reconstructed with the 2006-2008 sewer separation project, it appears that there remains 55 blocks which were not

reconstructed but seal-coated in 2008. It was felt important to be consistent with how these remaining blocks are assessed, should street reconstruction be necessary. It was also stated that financing for street reconstruction should be handled differently than that of initial construction. An amendment to the current assessment policy will be drafted for the Council's consideration. The importance of adequately maintaining the roads was also stressed.

Northland Securities updated the debt service information, deleting the Ranchwood Area improvements (\$681,000), and the assumption of special assessment revenues on reconstructed streets. Over 20 years, the annual net levy average is around \$97,000, with an additional \$12,000 to be paid with utility user fees. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Wolff to approve Resolution 10-17, ordering improvements and preparation of plans for the 2018-2019 street & utility improvement project (excluding Ranchwood improvements). Passed unanimously.

- Watermain Loop Project As MDH, MnDOT & Railroad permits/agreements have been approved and easements signed, the City can now advertise for bids for the watermain loop project. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to adopt Resolution 6-17, approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for the 2018 watermain loop project. Passed unanimously. Bids will be received until 2:00 PM on January 25, 2018; with consideration by the Council on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Resolution 14-17 As new State law requires cities to annually designate their local polling place for elections, a motion was made by Prokosch and seconded by Wolff to adopt Resolution 14-17, designating the Municipal Building as Bird Island's 2018 polling place. Passed unanimously.
- Pay Equity Report Every three years the State requires local government jurisdictions to submit a pay equity report, with Bird Island's report being due on 1-31-18. A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the report as presented. Passed unanimously.
- Fire Department A motion was made by Engelmann and seconded by Prokosch to approve the hiring of new firefighter Dan Elfering, with a one year probationary period. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Deb Lingl, City Administrator