

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN  
Wednesday, November  
7, 2018**

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Fennessey at 7:18 p.m. in the Government Center, Board Room 201.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Dan Olson, Jenny Van Sickle, Warren Bender, Jack Sweeney, Brent Fennessey, Tylor Elm, Ruth Ludwig, Craig Sutherland, Esther Dalbec – 9

Excused: Keith Kern – 1

Youth Councilors: Adam Lavine, Jeffrey Newman, Teagan Radtke, Paige Lach

Also Present: Mayor Paine, City Attorney Prell, City Clerk Kalan

1. Discussion on funding three additional firefighters. (*Referred from the October 16, 2018 Council meeting*)

Finance Director Vito provided the changes to the budget relating to different scenarios:

- Leave the General Fund budget as it is
- Fund 3 firefighters in 2019 with increased oil pipeline terminal tax placed in the General Fund
- Add one firefighter in 2019 and two additional firefighters in 2020 with increased oil pipeline terminal tax placed in the General Fund
- Add one firefighter in 2019, apply for the SAFER grant, add two additional firefighters in 2020 via a referendum to increase the levy (or a combination of this)

Battalion Chief Steve Edwards and Scott Gordon, and Captain Suzie Olson, Joe Tribbey, and Lindsey Campbell thanked the Council and Mayor for supporting additional firefighters but urged the process be done in a fiscally responsible manner and that a minimum staffing policy be developed to insure adequate staffing of 4 firefighters on rigs at all times.

Councilor Sutherland stated three additional firefighters could be funded immediately by placing additional oil pipeline terminal tax funding into the General Fund. This would not raise taxes, not need a referendum and would not exceed the ERP.

Mayor Paine stated everyone agrees staffing should be increased but there should be clear goals and understanding of what we are doing with the additional staffing. Simply increasing staffing to 36 does not automatically put 4 people on a on a rig. During the SAFER grant there were only four on a rig one-third of the time or less. Inadequate staffing has very serious consequences on property conservation and life safety. The proposal as presented will raise taxes every single year and drive the CIP

into a deficit in future years. His proposal adds three firefighters with the potential to add more in future years and allow us to have four on a rig more than a third of time. At the next meeting he will recommend increasing staff by one next year and increase the overtime budget while we pursue other options for funding without leaving potential sources of revenue on the table. The city could receive the SAFER grant again and if that fails, bring increase to referendum in fall of 2019. He believes the public would be willing to support an increase permanently dedicated to firefighters. The proposal by Councilor Sutherland and Fennessey would create a \$600,000 deficit while his would create a \$400,000 plus surplus. He implored the council to not send the CIP into a deficit, not leave money on table, not leave the public out of conversation, and not cap additional staffing at three firefighters. At the next meeting he will be recommending to amend the 2019 general fund to increase the overtime budget by \$22,000 and decrease the contingency by the same amount and to increase salaries and benefits by \$77,741 and increase terminal tax revenue transfer to the general fund by the same.

Fennessey clarified the proposal would drive the CIP into a deficit only if the council allows that to happen. If a priority based budgeting would have happened for this budget, public safety would be one top as it was last year.

**MOTION by Councilor Olson, seconded by Sweeney and carried, to refer discussion to the November 20, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting with Power to Act.**

2. Discussion of 2019 Capital Improvement Program (revised), 2020 Capital Improvement Program (proposed) and 2021-2024 Capital Improvement Program (tentative).

**MOTION by Councilor Olson, seconded by Sutherland and carried, to refer discussion to the November 20, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting with Power to Act.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

