

**MINUTES FROM THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:
OCTOBER 8, 2024**

Committee Present: Andy Buchanan, Jay Huncosky and Cynthia Stroessner

Committee Absent:

Others Present: Kim Hopfinger and Laurie Buchanan

The meeting was called to order by Andy Buchanan at 4:05pm

Discuss/Approve Minutes from August 6, 2024, Finance Meeting:

Jay made a motion, seconded by Cynthia, to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2024, finance committee meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Review/Make Recommendation on the Proposed 2025 Library Budget:

The committee reviewed the proposed library budget. The library is asking the Village to appropriate \$8,000 more than the 2024 budget. Library rep. Cynthia Stroessner explained that the Dodge County appropriation to the library will be over \$19,000 less than in 2024. She stated this is based a lot on decreased circulation at the library. The Washington County appropriation is also decreasing \$7,000. The committee felt that the Village and Township should not be responsible for making up for the lack of funds from the County. The board worked hard to get the County to pay the library at 100%. The committee discussed the fact that they cannot micromanage the library budget but that the library would have to figure out ways to cut costs especially with circulation going down. Andy made a motion, seconded by Jay to not recommend this proposed budget to the Village Board for approval and request a joint meeting with the Library Board and the Township of Hustisford to discuss. The motion carried unanimously. Kim will try to get the joint meeting with the library scheduled for Tuesday October 22 at 5:30 because the joint Fire Department meeting is that same evening at 7pm. Kim will put this request to the Library Board in writing before October 15th to adhere to the joint library agreement.

Review/Make Recommendation on the Proposed 2025 Fire department Budget:

The committee reviewed the proposed fire department budget. The Fire Department is asking the Village to appropriate \$11,000 more than 2024. This is a 17.30% increase over 2024 appropriation after a 13.26% increase in 2023. The main increase in the operating budget is under building repair. Much of the discussion revolved around the replacement fund budget. The department is asking for \$91,992 total to go into their replacement fund in 2025. This is \$15,000 more than 2024. The committee felt this is just too much to ask of taxpayers. While a capital outlay fund is a great thing to have – this dollar amount far exceeds what the committee is comfortable with. The committee felt that the purchase of a new fire truck in 2028 could be partially funded with borrowing just like what most would do for such a large purchase. The payments would then be divided out over the years in their budget. Andy made a motion, seconded by Cynthia, to not recommend this proposed budget to the Village Board for approval and request a joint meeting with the Fire Board and the Township of Hustisford to discuss. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Recommendations for 2025 Budget:

The committee began discussion on the 2025 budget numbers. Kim informed the board that to receive the budget restraint money from the state – the Village could not increase their expenditures more than 3.2% over 2024. Hopfinger also stated that the levy limit for this budget is \$382,692. The committee felt that the other committee's budget recommendations had no significant increases that stood out to them. There was more discussion that the library and fire department increases were just too much of a burden to the limits the village must fall under for the state. State aid for the Village is increasing over what was received in 2024. With all the proposed numbers in – including the requests from the library and fire department – the levy is about \$16,000 over what is allowed, and the expenditures are slightly over. This solidified the fact to the committee that they needed to hold the joint meetings and get those numbers in line. The committee also questioned the \$2,500 put in for capital outlay for the street sweeper overhaul. Once the joint meetings are held, the committee will meet again to go over numbers and come up with a proposal for the Village Board budget meeting.

With no further business before this committee, Andy made a motion, seconded by Jay, to adjourn, the motion carried unanimously.