

City of Camanche

January 12, 2016

The City Council of the City of Camanche, Iowa met in budget work session January 12, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. at Camanche City Hall. Present on roll call: Mayor Willis, presiding, and the following named council members: Metzger, Saxon, Lind, Varner, and Wruck. Also present were City Administrator Roth, City Attorney Randy Current, department heads Hilgendorf, Houzenga, Schutte, and Jindrich.

A moment of silence was observed. Mayor Willis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Lind, second by Saxon to approve the agenda. On roll call – all ayes.

Roth started going over the budget packet. He stated the city has spent a lot of cash reserves. They need to slow down and think of how to replenish those reserves.

Water Rates – water rates are quite low. Fixed costs are not being covered by the minimum charge for service.

Community Center/Storage – a meeting was held today. The costs have gone up \$36,000 to \$46,000. There is a grant to remove Garner Hall. The original price was going to be \$412,000. Now it is approximately \$448,000 to \$458,000 with \$40,000 in engineering costs. A CDBG could be awarded up to \$300,000. If it is awarded, the cost would go up because of federal wages. If we go after CDBG, the city can't go after the demolition grant. If we go with the CDBG grant, the city wouldn't be able to get started until next year at this time. Otherwise, we can get things started this year without the CDBG. It was the consensus to not go with the CDBG application.

Garbage – the current contract expires April 1, 2016. Jindrich will put together information she has received from other cities as far as rates. Roth stated Gorge is reliable and easy going. Sometimes the equipment is not really reliable. He stated Gorge is willing to go with another 5 year contract. Discussion on garbage contracts will be put on the next agenda.

Work Comp Insurance – Camanche voluntarily joined 411. It includes retirement and permanent disability. Work comp. includes time off, payment of medical bills, and value of injury. 411 does not pay for medical bills, no permanent disability and does not pay for time off. If you are on 411, anything diagnosed with heart, lung or cancer automatically says its work comp. EMC - the fire department right now lists it under paramedic for work comp. They said no more. It will increase work comp by about \$50,000. It is time to bid property, auto, and liability and work comp insurance. Chris Vens would like to bid it out two different ways – 1. Full work comp for 411; 2. Medical only. Most large cities don't have work comp. Roth said it is time to make the change. He budgeted medical only. We will go out for bids late January or February. We will know then the rates. IMWCA, through the League of Cities, does not offer full work comp for 411 cities.

Debt Service – there is a balance of \$30,000. If you want to use that money, you can lower the tax asking.

State Commercial Property Tax Rollback – it is important to rebuild the fund balances.

Roads – the previous council was thinking of borrowing money to do these major roads and use the extra monthly road use tax money to make the payments. Wruck said it was discussed but nothing decided. The city will be getting \$511,000 in road use tax money with the increase. Jason Craft, City of Clinton, was going to put these roads in their plan. Wruck said the short stretch of 21st Street is the worse one. Hilgendorf commented that the drainage is better now that they've knocked the shoulders down. Wruck was wondering if something needs to be done with a culvert. The concern is if we wait for cash on hand, the roads will deteriorate even more. If you borrow the money, the debt payment would be \$120,000 - \$150,000 a year to do work with current money. 2. Life expectancy will outlive the debt. The city is just doing catch up right now.

Roth Retirement – Roth stated he will be retiring this year. The council needs to decide how they want to proceed. You can't run city hall with 2 people. Wruck questioned outsourcing utility billing to save office staff. Or how about bringing in another office person.

Group Health Insurance – the plan the city bought last year will be gone. Roth budgeted a 10% increase.

After a short break, work session convened again at 6:50 P.M.

Roth said the state backfill will be about \$117,000 this year.

Chief Houzenga had a power point presentation concerning the police department. They have been operating with 7 police officers since July 2015 when Dan Broadrick left. He went over the 2015 yearly report. He reported that Camanche is the 11th safest city in Iowa due to the hard work of the officers. The 8th officer is critical in the day to day operation. The 8th officer is not just needed for OT, but for the work load and to prevent burn out. Taxpayers expect a certain level of service.

Proprietary Funds – water rates need to be looked at. Sewer rates need to be closely monitored. Garbage rates – the city has taken on the yearly increases. Garbage rates may have to be addressed depending on the new contract.

Ambulance Fees – Schutte reported that ambulance fees haven't been raised since we started charging in 2009. We are below average. No action has to be taken right now. Wruck was wondering what other ambulance companies in the area charge. Schutte also mentioned that building permit rates should be raised.

Roth stated he could give the council a balanced budget quite easily. The council should feel good about still being able to put \$150,000 into equipment reserves.

Another budget meeting was set for Monday, January 17, 2016 at 5:30 P.M.

The budget work session was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Trevor Willis, Mayor

Sheryl L. Jindrich
City Clerk/Treasurer