

Village board holds budget workshop

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Friday, 07 September 2012 17:13 -

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Village board held a budget workshop last Thursday, Aug. 30 to review the proposed fiscal year 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013) budget.

After revisions made at the workshop the total proposed Village of Wauneta budget, not including the Sunrise Heights of Wauneta budget, came in with total expenditures of \$1,961,000, \$62,084 less than the current year's budget.

The proposed fiscal year 2013 budget, which includes multiple contingency plans to prepare for worst-case scenarios, lists a possible shortfall of \$516,525.

The shortfall is considerably less than that included in the fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget, which was listed at \$611,685. The total expenditures included in the FY 2012 budget were \$2,023,084.

The shortfall included in the FY 2012 budget is not expected to be realized. According to Village Clerk Evelyn Skelton's calculations the village should end FY 2012 at \$238,081.12 in the black.

If a shortfall were ever to become a reality the funds to cover the shortfall would come from the village's reserve which are projected to total \$1,900,000 at the beginning of FY 2013.

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Highlights of the proposed budget

Expenditures planned for FY 2013 are very much aligned with those included in the current budget year.

One thing planned early in FY 2013 is completion of the variable frequency drive project. The ongoing project is an effort to reduce the arsenic levels in Wauneta's water below guidelines.

The variable frequency drives will slow the rate at which water is pulled from the village's wells. It is hoped that the reduced rate will lower arsenic levels.

Village superintendent Bill Bischoff said most of the supplies needed for the project have already been purchased and that contractors will be utilized to install the equipment this fall.

The village is also planning for work to improve the sewer system. Plans include possible improvements to the sewer lines behind Harchelroad's Motors. Plans also include erosion control at the village lagoons, winds are causing potholes in the banks of the lagoons.

Also included in the village's budget is a 5 percent increase in the cost of electricity from NPPD. The rate change to the village will go into effect in January. The village board plans to reevaluate consumer electric rates in early 2013.

The proposed budget includes updates and replacement of village-owned equipment. The proposed budget includes purchase of a bucket truck, sand truck, grader and a mower. The current grader owned by the village is a 1956 model.

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Expansive work to Legion Street is also included in the proposed budget. The work may prove necessary due to the sprinkler system needed at the nursing home.

Also included in the budget proposal is funding for a new lift chair for the swimming pool which will make it handicap accessible.

Next steps

The FY 2013 budget will now be sent back to the village's auditors, Almquist, Alzahn, Gallaway and Luth. After the firm reviews the budget the village board will hold a public hearing to finalize the budget.

Sunrise Heights of Wauneta's budget was compiled separately by administrator Lisa Kisinger. It will be included with the village budget at the public hearing.