

Village Board approves budget, property tax request

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 20 September 2012 17:11 -

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Village Board met last Tuesday, Sept. 11 for their regular meeting. At the meeting they held two public hearings, one to approve the 2012-2013 annual budget and one to hear comments for or against the Property Tax Request.

The 2012-2013 budget includes a total of \$4,223,916 in disbursements and transfers with a total of \$1,516,395.01 of necessary cash reserves. It lists \$5,740,311.01 as the total amount of resources available for the year.

The final tax request was set at 0.500000 percent, a minimal raise from last year's 0.499996 percent tax rate. No one was present at either public hearing.

New equipment

The board approved the purchase of a used bucket truck and new street mower at last week's meeting.

The bucket truck will be purchased from Southwest Nebraska Public Power District for \$17,000. The 1995 truck has 82,000 miles and 6,000 hours. Village superintendent Bill Bischoff told the

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board he felt the truck was a good value because he knew it had been well taken care of.

Bischoff also reported that the village will keep its current 1985 model bucket truck to use for tree trimming.

The village board also approved the purchase of a new Bush Hog 73-inch mower. The cost of the new mower is \$11,000, the village will trade in the Walker mower which will bring the out-of-pocket trade down to \$6,500. The money for the purchase will be taken from the Highway Allocation funds.

Nursing home report

Lisa Kisinger, administrator of Sunrise Heights of Wauneta was in attendance at the board meeting to provide a report on the nursing home.

Kisinger reported that the census at the nursing home is at 30 residents.

The facility was the recent recipient of two national awards for customer satisfaction and workforce satisfaction. They were one of only four nursing homes in the state to receive one of these awards and were the only facility in Nebraska to receive both awards. More information on the awards can be found in a separate story in this edition.

Village superintendent Bischoff reported that Miller Signs of Kearney will be in town this week to redo the nursing home's sign as well as the school's sign.

Bischoff also reported that work will begin this week to start the installation of the water lines for

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the nursing home's new fire suppression system.

Members of the village board's nursing home committee commented on a wall in the nursing home's kitchen that has become damaged over time by water from the nearby dishwasher. They have recommended that the wall be repaired.

Sheriff's report

Deputy Mike Dukes provided the sheriff's report at the board meeting. He reported that the new pickup has come in and should be operational soon. The village's portion (half) of the purchase price is \$13,899.

Now that the pickup is in the county the sheriff's office will work with Prairie States Communications to have equipment installed in the vehicle at an estimated cost of \$1,200 to the village of Wauneta for its half of the cost.

Village attorney Arlan Wine reported that there has been a report made of a dog running at large. The animal is reportedly a dangerous animal. Wine stated he will be sending a letter to the owner stating the dog must be confined.

Superintendent's report

Bischoff reported to the board that he and his crew are three-quarters of the way done flushing hydrants. They are also in the process of doing the yearly routine chlorination of the village's

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water.

The fall sewer jetting has been completed.

During Bischoff's report village board chairman Lloyd Sinner asked Bischoff to inquire with the sign company about the cost to replace the village signs including the one located north of Bob Jones' business.

Other business

Other items of business discussed and acted upon during the September village board meeting included review and approval of the month's bills and treasurer's report.

The village board decided to put \$5,000 per year into a sinking fund for the police fund to save for future vehicle needs.

The board also decided to transfer \$10,000 per year into a sinking fund for the fire department to help pay for new equipment in the future.

Board members also voted to approve a request from the Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department for a temporary liquor licence for their annual Firemen's Ball which will be held on Nov. 3 at the Wauneta Legion Hall.

The board also approved the donation of two family passes for the swimming pool, one to the upcoming Cancer Walk and one to the auction at the nursing home grand re-opening celebration.

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The Wauneta Village board's regular meeting time is the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. MT. The public is welcome to attend Village board meetings.