Wildwood Park District

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2015

Present: President Ben Richards, Commissioners Maj Kowalski, Jim Neel, Dan Bundalo, Dan Van Erden, and Director Maureen Jekot.

President Richards called the meeting to order at 6:10pm for the purpose of discussing the budget for fiscal year 2016-17.

The board reviewed the budget packet distributed by Director Jekot. The packet contains a breakdown of all expenditures from last year, along with total money expended.

The board discussed the levy and what was requested in past years. One year the board tried to attain a zero increase in funds and was told this was possible through the Lake County Assessor’s Office. After submitting a 0% levy, Wildwood Park District received approximately $800 less than the previous year. The board never received a clear-cut answer as to why the lower amount was received. It was believed the overall assessed evaluation, which is not known until many months following the levy request along with the multiplier played a role in this. The multiplier allows for the additional collection of taxes when evaluations go down.

It was noted that additional funds will be needed to cover office staff positions as we have secured individuals with specific qualifications.

Alternatives options for security and a patrol program were discussed in regard to the budget. There should be approximately $17,000 available in the general budget for these services in next season’s budget. Discussion will be held regarding which fund will cover next year’s program.

It was noted that the Special Rec funds fall outside the tax cap, which has in recent years been lower than in past years. The use of funds from this fund is restricted.

Approximately $34,000 presently lies in reserve funds.

Director Jekot shared information from the PDRMA audit concerning score award money given to the district for reaching high percentiles. They believe this money should be allocated to staff safety incentives for promoting a safe work environment.

Alternatives options for security and a patrol program were discussed in regard to the budget. There should be approximately $17,000 available in the general budget for these services in next season’s budget.

Director Jekot presented a sample levy based on the same amounts requested last year. This can be a starting point for board levy discussions.

President Richards moved, seconded by Commissioner Kowalski to adjourn the Committee Meeting. Roll call, all in favor motion carried.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.