

**Minot Park Board Special Meeting
August 25, 2009**

The Minot Park Board met on August 25, 2009 at 12:00 Noon in a special meeting to discuss the 2010 preliminary budget.

Members Present: Robert Petry, Ron Bieri, Robert Walstad, Ron Merritt, Connie Feist, Cliff Hovda, and Cindy Thomas.

Discussion was held on the 2010 preliminary budget. Bieri questioned the amount set aside in the budget for a pension plan contribution. Merritt explained the reasoning for this line item. Merritt also reported he has used a mill value of \$104,000.00 per mill, the special assessment amount is not finalized, the budget at this point in time is 1.53 mills below last years mills, and the budget also included a 3% salary increase for all full time employees. The board proceeded to go through the budget by department. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the new position at the zoo. In addition, discussion was held regarding the contingency fund set aside in Forestry. The discussion centered around putting any monies left in the forestry budget into an equipment line item to be carried from year to year so when a big piece of equipment is needed, there is a fund already available for part of the purchase. Discussion was also held regarding the new position in the Horticulture department.

After the budget had been gone through, more discussion was held regarding the line item for pension plan contribution. Some of the commissioners would like more information on the need for this contribution. Bieri also suggested taking \$31,800.00 from the carryover for the zoo entrance building and the \$5000.00 from the paddleboats and putting it towards some of the smaller capital projects, namely:

Railroad Concession Fence	\$ 4,800.00
Leach Shelter	\$ 8,000.00
Hammond Bleachers	\$ 4,000.00
Grandstand Netting	\$ 3,000.00
Entrance Sign-SVGC	\$ 7,000.00
Concession Restroom	\$10,000.00

These projects total \$36,800.00.

Petry then stated he would also like an explanation regarding the pension plan line item. He also has issues regarding the zoo position, as benefits would also need to be paid. This increases that line item by 30%. He would like to see both of these line items taken out and put into capital projects. He also agreed with the forestry line item for equipment. He does have an issue with a line item for a ranger at the golf course and wonders if it is necessary.

Hovda supported Bieri's proposal as that would still leave \$500,000.00 towards the zoo building. He does feel a ranger is necessary at the golf course and is a good investment.

Walstad would also like an explanation of the pension plan line item.

Motion by Petry, second by Bieri to adopt the 2010 preliminary budget in the amount of \$5,115,373.00. Feist requested that the receipts statement list the baseball monies separately. Hovda would support a line item for the forestry money to be put into forestry equipment. On roll call, all members voted yes.

More discussion was held regarding the 'tweaking' of the budget. Merritt stated they could move things around within the budget or lower the budget; they just cannot increase the bottom line.

The Board set a meeting date of 09/09/09 for a committee of the whole to look at the budget once again. The public hearing for the budget will be held on 09/15/09 at 7:00 pm in the municipal courtroom.

Additional discussion was held on the new zoo position. Motion by Petry, second by Hovda to make the new position at the zoo a part time position as opposed to a permanent full time position. Bieri stated he would need to have numbers and a job description for the position before he could make a decision. Feist felt she understood the original motion and felt that according to Merritt the zoo was understaffed in zookeepers, they just need another person to help. Bieri wanted to know what exactly the new position would be doing. Hovda would support an additional person, and to have that person part time, but he too would like to see what the numbers are and what percent of time the vet tech needs to spend on vet tech duties. After discussion, Petry withdrew his motion along with Hovda withdrawing his second.

Walstad stated he did not view the paddleboats as an expense but an income producer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cindy Thomas, clerk

Robert Walstad, President