

## **Preliminary Budget Preparation at Town Hall on June 5, 2024**

**Attendees:** Jan Bowey, Tammy Todd, Diane Kaatz, Curtis Green, Mayor Jennifer Bailey, and Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Meacham.

**Guests:** Bill Talbott, Ty Gerth and Jeff Gerth.

Called to Order at 5:38

The library preliminary budget was distributed and discussed. The library requested in a previous Town Council meeting a budget amendment of \$4000. After which there was discussion regarding Bill Talbott the Librarian's salary on the personal line on the itemized library budget. Bill discussed the salary line as being higher in case of wage increase and an assistant. New toilets are a priority, and a water fountain is a need but not a priority. Bill discussed the library's Certificate of Deposits (CD's) and the low interest rate. The library is only able to spend the interest and unable to spend the principle due to the restraints from the donated money.

The new well isn't doing as good as what was anticipated. Council talked about cleaning out pump 5, which only gives out about half the water that it had in the past. Discussion about if the new well (well 7) and well 5 are being pumped from the same water pool. Will discuss with O'Keefe drilling about the preliminary cost of cleaning of pump 5. The funds could come from a water capital enterprise fund. The well and the construction of the line to the pump house are two different projects and come from two different sources of money. There are two wells that are inactive and possibly could be used.

The generator is not hooked up and unsure why it isn't hooked up. According to Curtis it needs to be hooked up and is a priority to get going. Unsure of the cost because of all of the needs before it can be operational.

The fire dept is looking to get a different fire truck and would like to get a valuation of the truck. The council would like to bring someone in and look at the unsafe fire truck to see if it is feasible to fix. The fire dept has a capital improvement fund and the fire truck would fall under the spending category. The new building is a priority along with a replacement truck. The mayor will speak to Dillon, to see if they will disperse with the 1988 fire truck they have for minimal funds. Would like to get the truck for the town to have proper protection. Discussion about the foam that is used and whether or not it is viable. Town council needs to put a petition out for the Town Fire Department to join the Rural Fire Department which would need a 40% of the residents to would sign to go through or not. MCA7-33-2126 Annexation of adjacent territory contained in a fire district was read and discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Meacham