

August 26, 2008

A special meeting of the Scandia City Council was held on the above date. Mayor Dennis Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The following were present: Council members Pete Crum, Dolores Peterson, Donnette Yehle, Michael Harnetty and Mayor Dennis Seefeldt. Staff present: Administrator Anne Hurlburt, Treasurer Colleen Firkus, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Yehle, Firefighter Mike Hinz and Recreation Coordinator Marty McKelvey. Also present were: Park and Recreation Committee Chair Karen Schick and Vice Chair Alex Bildeaux.

The agenda was amended to include a brief discussion of the Taco Daze parade.

Administrator Hurlburt reviewed a preliminary calculation of the 2009 levy limit, the history of the township/city levy and estimated impact of the maximum levy on taxpayers. A video, "14 Reasons Property Taxes Go Up or Down", was played and discussed.

Overall assumptions for expenses were discussed, and the status of various capital projects within the draft budgets was reviewed. The possible replacement of a dump truck/plow, scheduled for 2009, was discussed. Based on information gathered from other communities and the condition of the truck, staff suggested that replacement of this item could be delayed. Projected balances for the capital funds were reviewed.

Preliminary budgets for each general fund department were discussed. The draft budgets are not currently in balance with revenues. No decisions on cuts or additions were made. Possible savings in spending or revenue increases were identified, which staff will further investigate. The consensus was that the city would need to certify the levy at the statutory limit to meet the September 15 deadline. Additional discussion will take place and decisions on the budget will be made prior to the Truth in Taxation hearing in December.

Staff was directed to begin looking at various revenue/ fee increases for further discussion. Also, groups using the Annex will be notified that the city will not heat the building this winter, which may save \$2,000 or more in utility costs.

The Council will meet briefly on Wednesday, September 10, to certify the maximum 2009 tax levy. There may also need to be additional items added to that agenda.

The Council discussed arrangements for the Taco Daze parade on Saturday, September 6. The vehicle the Council has used in the past is no longer available. It was decided that the Council would ride in Council member Harnetty's antique pick-up truck. Council members are asked to be present in the city booth during that day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hurlburt
City Administrator/ Clerk