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VILLAGE OF WEBSTER

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

Webster Village Office

7461 Main Street West, Webster, WI

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Finance Chairman, Matt Stuart called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
 - II. **PRESENT** – Chairman, Matt Stuart; Trustees, Ed Dedman, Kelsey Gustafson and Charlie Weis. Others Present: Clerk/Treasurer, Debra Kuhnly; Public Works Director, Jay Heyer; Chief of Police, Stephanie Wedin. Absent: Village President, Bill Summer.
 - III. **PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENDA, DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL** –Motion made by Trustee, Dedman to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Trustee, Weis. **Motion carried 4-0.**
 - IV. **INITIAL BUDGET DISCUSSION** – Chairman, Stuart opened the floor for initial discussions on the 2024 Budget. The annual budget meeting is scheduled for November 2nd. Reports were provided on 2023 budget comparison to YTD actual. Stuart would like to put together a 5-year budget plan. He plans on reviewing all expenses for opportunities to reduce costs, review future equipment and vehicle replacements, and the use of potential grants for projects. He would like to share this information with the residents. Dedman reported that there will be some increase in personnel costs in both salary and health insurance. The Personnel Committee is still working out the details, but he reported that the police officer's health insurance is increasing 9.7%. Dedman stated that there has been no money left in the budget process for streets. Gustafson and Heyer said the streets need repairs. Stuart mentioned water rate increase in 2024. Dedman asked if the village could implement a surcharge on water. Kuhnly didn't think so as it's regulated by the PSC. Dedman suggested looking into surcharge to repair streets. Weis asked if a municipality could impose a sales tax –the village cannot do this. Weis suggested talking to the village auditor about debt ratio and can grant match (project) be part of it and should/can the village handle more debt as the debt ratio is low. Weis asked that we check with transferring the money from M Getts playground account to parks & playgrounds. Wedin and Heyer were asked if there are any major repairs or replacements needed for 2024. Heyer reported the top 2 needs are to replace the sewer jetter and utility truck. The current utility truck is almost 10 years old, and it is a ½ ton and could really use a ¾ ton. The sewer jetter is over 25 years old and the pump is going. Estimated cost for sewer jetter replacement is \$75,000 - \$80,000. The question was asked if the village could go in with Siren and share. Heyer reported Siren just purchased one a few years ago. Dedman suggested checking if village could lease services on use of Siren's when needed. Wedin reported there is a need to replace the police squad. There is a line item in the capital replacement fund for a new squad and more money should be earmarked for it. Weis said we can pull the \$10,000 from property razing, that was allocated, but not spent to cover the unbudgeted additional \$12,000 on expenses for the new office in 2023. Discussion took place on how low the village water rates are compared to all other municipalities in the area and the need to continue to raise to offset expenses to the water fund.

Kuhnly suggested President, Summer and or Trustee, Stuart talk to Oakland and Meenon Township regarding payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) on their property they recently purchased from St Croix Health for their offices and townhalls.

V. **ADJOURNMENT.** Motion was made by Trustee, Dedman to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:31 p.m., seconded by Trustee, Gustafson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Stuart

Finance Chairman

October 23, 2023

***These minutes are subject to approval at next month's Regular Meeting.