

THE SEWER BOARD OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA, HELD A BUDGET WORK SESSION IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF NEW ALBANY CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR SEWER BOARD MEETING.

PRESENT: Ed Wilkinson, member, Nathan Grimes, member and Mayor Gahan, president.

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Moeller, April Dickey, Mike Wallace, Rob Sartell, Councilman Dickey, Councilwoman Griffith, Councilman Blair and Vicki Glotzbach

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gahan called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

SEWER BILLING

Mrs. Moeller presented the budget for 2024 and explained that the department heads have submitted their proposed budgets to her and they hope to accomplish this morning is for the board to review, ask questions and adopt the budgets. She stated that they are going to start with Mrs. Dickey's budget. She added that she did add in the 2% salary increase as well as an increase in benefits because of that.

Mrs. Dickey stated that everything is pretty much the same as it has been for 2023. She explained that she did bump up office supplies and the only other significant increase was in electric.

Mr. Grimes asked about the part-time line item and if they have part-time employees.

Mr. Dickey stated that they hired another full-time person and the part-time help is off and on.

Mr. Wilkinson asked if they have had any indications that insurance is going to change in this coming year.

Mrs. Moeller stated that in the preliminary meetings that they have had it appears that the policy and rates will stay the same or a small difference. She added that our broker has been very good at watching the rates and bargaining for us.

WASTEWATER

Mrs. Moeller stated that the salaries will again indicate a 2% raise as well as an increase in benefits.

Mr. Wallace stated that the majority of the budget stayed the same with small changes in chemicals due to increase in pricing. He reported that Uphill Run came off so that was significant and emergency repairs came down from \$500.00 to \$400.00. He stated that they still haven't received the jet truck yet so some of the vehicle equipment replacement line item will be fore that.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that it looks like all of the numbers are in line with what they recommended adjustments through the season. He added that whatever is coming out of that back door is going to the landfill so they don't have very much control of that. He stated that it was moving a little faster just like all the other costs with the big item being energy cost, and that all relates to truck loads, but the rest is in order.

Mayor Gahan asked if chemicals have any impact on the odor.

Mr. Wallace explained that they do have a few stations that they feed odor control chemical into and they are looking to put one more online so that will be an additional cost as well.

Mayor Gahan stated that he wants to know that we are doing everything we can to address the issue and added that they feel like they know where it is coming from.

Mr. Wallace stated that any time they get odor complaints at a station they will feed the chemical and he feels like that will solve the problem.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that big element that people don't recognize is the lack of rain. He explained that they see the effects on their own lawn but they don't realize that water evaporating out of the piping system releases that air to the environment. He added that if you multiply that across the city you have an automatic event that you don't have any control over.

Mayor Gahan asked if he is saying that the smell could be coming from individual residences instead of the plant.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that a trap in front of a home that the water evaporated out of will have gases coming out of the sewer at the sidewalk level. He added that there isn't a leak, it is just the evaporation of the water and it can happen city-wide and it does happen in every city. He stated that the other thing that happens in the sewer department that doesn't happen to any other business is a two-inch rain in a short period of time can cause an overflow for them but doesn't affect anyone else in the city.

Mrs. Moeller stated that she is looking at the fuel number and asked Mr. Wallace if he thinks they will be okay.

Mr. Wallace stated that he thinks they will be okay.

Mrs. Moeller stated that she knows the board will need a chance to review the budget but if there are any changes they would like to make just let her know. She added that she once any changes have been made, she will finalize it and have it ready for a vote at the next meeting.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Mayor Gahan, President

Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk