

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2013**

**6:15 P.M. PROMPT**

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**• BUDGET HEARING –**

- **6:15 pm – Service Department**
- **7:00 pm – Fire Department**
- **7:45 pm – Recreation Department**

Bedford, Ohio

October 28, 2013

Bedford City Council met in a Budget Work Session at Bedford City Hall on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Council Members: Mayor Daniel Pocek, Warner Batten, Stan Koci, Marilyn Zolata, Greg Pozar, Paula Mizensak, Donald Saunders [joined the meeting at 6:30 pm and left at 7:45 pm]. Also Present: Clerk of Council Lorree Villers. Administration: City Manager Henry J. Angelo, Finance Director Frank Gambosi, Service Director Clint Bellar, Superintendent Shawn Francis, Fire Chief Dave Nagy, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Solar, Recreation Director Randy Lewis, Assistant Recreation Director Jeff Fiala. Absent: None.

Service Director Bellar and Superintendent Francis were both present this evening to discuss the Service Department's budget.

Mr. Bellar stated the Service Department was managing very well and still providing good services with less people. He had one employee retire that he was not going to replace so that was a savings in his department. Mr. Pozar had questions about the rubbish program. Mr. Bellar explained it was a 5 year contract with a 3 year extension option. It was determined it might be time for the residents to pay for a portion of their rubbish. An approximate cost of \$20 per household stretching over 5,000 homes would be a tremendous help to the budget considering the bad news of Ben Venue closing. Mr. Pozar noted "never let a good crisis go to waste". Mayor Pocek thought that was an excellent point. Mr. Bellar noted in other cities the residents paid for their rubbish and recycling. There was a discussion of recycling containers for each homeowner in hopes to increase recycling versus the free blue bags the residents had an option to use. Mr. Koci suggested Mr. Bellar research how Garfield was handling their program. Everyone agreed the City needed to encourage recycling for the sake of the landfills. It was understood it was time for the City to make some decisions because of the economy and the current situation regarding the closing of Ben Venue.

The ash tree removal was being addressed; the Service Department was cutting down the smaller trees but the larger trees had to be contracted out. If there were any trees that posed a safety issue, they were being addressed immediately. Hornet removal would be done over the winter months only on the City owned trees. The beautification of downtown would continue with the hanging flowers and decorations. It was important to keep the downtown attractive.

Mr. Angelo and Mr. Bellar noted sewer call-outs were not going to be addressed over the weekends or after 5:00 p.m. in order to save money. There would be a notice sent to the residents. There was discussion regarding the mains and whose responsibility it was. Mr. Bellar said the mains were addressed every other month. Mr. Angelo stated it was the responsibility of the resident not the City. Mr. Bellar noted he did not have enough employees to cover the snow removal so there was going to be overtime money spent. Fuel was an ongoing struggle because of the high fuel costs; most of the Service Department vehicles used gasoline. The Service Department also had some costs regarding the buy-back of cemetery lot(s); however, the City only purchased the lot(s) for the same amount paid when originally purchased. Employee medical benefits were approximately \$15,000 per employee divided by 12 months. Mr. Bellar noted he also cut back on his seasonal employees; they were employed for 10 weeks. There was discussion if it was possible to change the street lights to LED bulbs. Mr. Bellar explained it was cost effective even though the City did not pay for the repairs. It was determined the cost of signal cameras versus the signal loop system was a consideration in the future. Mr. Saunders was not sure how the cameras hold up to the elements of the weather. Moneys were set aside in case there needed to be repairs on the smaller (10 foot) bridges. The Northfield Bridge repairs were not the responsibility of the City;

however, the City was given the responsibility for the snow removal even though the City did not have the appropriate equipment to clean it properly.

Mrs. Zolata wanted to know if the City was going to address the issue of sidewalk replacement/repairs. Mr. Angelo replied, "No". Mr. Bellar explained if he could order 20 blocks that needed replaced the pricing would be approximately \$147 per block at the resident's expense. As far as vehicles, there was a plan to rotate/move around a couple of the City vehicles. Discussion of the loss in water/sewer revenue regarding the closing of Ben Venue was something that was going to have a large impact on the budget because of the costs to maintain and operate the water/sewer system. The water meter handheld equipment was relatively new so there were not a lot of costs for 2014. Mr. Francis explained the schedule of the Broadway Avenue waterline project, weather permitting the cement and asphalt could be finished. Overall the majority of the Service Departments projects were completed but there were still some lingering bills. There was upkeep at the Cemetery which had been reduced over the years.

Mr. Bellar and Mr. Francis thanked the Administration and Council. Mayor Pocek thought overall the Service Department did a great job! Council had no further questions for Mr. Bellar and Mr. Francis and they left at 7:12 pm.

Chief Nagy and Assistant Chief Solar were both present this evening to discuss the Fire Department's budget.

Chief Nagy explained the call volume was 2,300 to 2,500 at 70% to 80% as being ambulance related. The good relationship with University Hospital was a benefit for the use of pilot equipment and drug administration. He stressed regionalization was the key along with monthly joint training and shared equipment. Bedford was considered to be in the group of five regarding the dispatch centers which had been an ongoing project. He felt Bedford Heights was a good location. Overall the Fire Department had a good year. He thanked Mr. Solar for his excellent assistance in acquiring grants. The grants helped in equipment purchases which also helped in the aid of employee safety. He referred to the grants as a "crown jewel". The Safer Grant was for a period of two years maintaining 27 firefighters with an option of an extension. Mr. Solar explained Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from FEMA was \$360,000 that would pay for two positions for a two year period at no cost to the City. Chief Nagy thought everyone was doing an excellent job as far as he was concerned. There were no big capital expenditures in 2014 or 2015. He stressed again, regionalization was the important factor. There was a good working relationship with the surrounding communities and as other communities were becoming aware of Bedford's achievements; there was a sign of interest. Mr. Angelo noted the City also contacted the Cities of Twinsburg and Solon but they were not willing to come on board.

The Chief noted his staff was not wearing tattered clothing and they were presentable. Mr. Gambosi stated the Fire Department did a good job in practicing safety which meant less claims. The newer equipment helped save on Fire Department injuries. It was noted the operations line was consistent. Chief Nagy and Mr. Gambosi said it was because of a grant and one retiree. The collections and levy helped pay for six employees. There was discussion regarding permits; Chief Nagy briefly explained it was basically a waste of time, it was overwhelming and for the hours spent in salaries for such a small amount it was not worth the effort. Mr. Solar said the Fire Department rarely pulled a permit; they made the person fix the problem.

Chief Nagy and Assistant Chief Solar thanked Council and Mr. Angelo for their time and assistance.

Recreation Director Randy Lewis and Assistant Director Jeff Fiala were both present this evening to discuss the Recreation Department's budget.

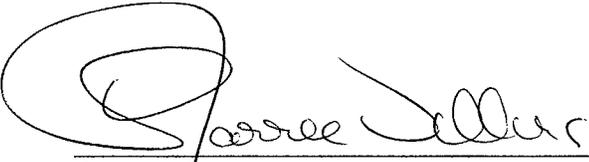
Mr. Lewis explained they too would be doing more with less in 2014. Both the directors spoke of adding additional programs and the problems with some of the Ellenwood rentals. Certain age groups for birthdays and all graduation parties had been eliminated because those groups came with problems.

Mrs. Zolata asked how the grass cutting was being addressed. Mr. Lewis explained they had invested in adequate equipment so there was no need for overtime. The hospitalization paid for five fulltime and one part time employee at \$15,000 per person. The senior activities were kept to a minimum cost so it was affordable. If the bus was not full, he opened the trip to the residents which paid off sometimes because the resident might join the program. Another focus was to keep the costs affordable so parents could sign their children up for programs so the children could enjoy the benefits. There was an effort to repair and paint the equipment to keep the costs down. He noticed after the children reached a certain age it was hard to keep their interest. Mrs. Zolata asked if any of the programs addressed "bullying". Mr. Lewis felt this type of program should be addressed by the school systems. Mayor Pock thought bullying was being addressed at the schools. Mr. Fiala explained the Strongsville Youth Commission program was attended by the Strongsville Recreation Department and their school system on a monthly basis to address certain problems/issues.

Mr. Pozar asked for clarification regarding the food bank. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Batten figured it cost \$1,200 to \$1,400 per month. Mr. Batten did the shopping for approximately 100 families; the program was income based.

Mr. Lewis spoke of the need for more improvements at Ellenwood; the old entry way, the men's restroom and air conditioning were next on the list of things that needed addressed. He had received a grant to help pay for the improvements. He also mentioned AARP contacted him regarding a free WIFI setup for tax preparation for the residents. Mr. Angelo closed the budget work session by commending Mr. Lewis and Mr. Fiala on the way they handled the issues this past summer at the pool.

The Work Session adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor – President of Council