

**MINUTES
 COOK CITY COUNCIL
 SPECIAL MEETING
 TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING
 DECEMBER 16, 2010 – 6:00 PM – COOK CITY HALL**

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Karen Hollanitsch, Councilors Jody Bixby, Dan Manick, and Elizabeth Storm

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator – Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy-Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Palm, Maintenance Supervisor Bud Ranta, Cook News Herald, Timberjay, Colosimo Law Office Attorneys’ Mitch Brunfelt and Adam Licari

Mayor Hollanitsch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Administrator Martinson stated the purpose of the meeting is to give the taxpayers and the City of Cook the opportunity to discuss the budget and tax levy for the upcoming year 2011.

GENERAL FUND:

Proposed Revenues for 2011: \$409,694.00

Proposed Levy Increase 3%:
\$9,074.00

Proposed Expenses \$367,268.00

Airport Transfer \$ 0.00

Storm Sewer Loan \$ 44,000.00

Lift Station Replacement \$ 0.00

Equipment Replacement \$ 7,500.00

Surplus \$ 0.00

2009 LEVY \$293,675.00
2010 LEVY \$302,485.00
2011 LEVY \$311,560.00

Projects for consideration: Future development, lighting for 1st Ave SE/4th Street SE, paving, sidewalk replacement, lift station replacement and SE Drainage Improvements Project-designate matching funds.

The initial proposed tax levy for the City of Cook was 5% in August, 3.5% in November and 3% in December for the final proposal. Administrator Martinson reported that the 3% Levy is fair with what other municipalities are adopting for 2011. Special Study

Meetings were held prior to Regular Council Meetings each month to discuss budget issues. Expenses were reduced even more for 2011 with the threat of Local Government Aid being reduced due to a weakened economy. Airport expenditures were further reduced to avoid transferring a loss from the airport to the general fund. The Storm Sewer and Equipment Replacement funds will continue to transfer funds but the Lift Station transfer of \$20,000 has been eliminated as an expense to the general fund in order to balance the budget for 2011. A Cost of Living increase was eliminated for employees even though the city auditor recommended 2-3%, the Midwest CPI recommended 2.5% and the National CPI recommended 3% increases.

In past years, liquor store funds were used to balance the deficit in the budget and we have now been able to avoid the transfer of these funds, as we do not want to keep borrowing from the liquor store fund.

Motion by Manick, second by Bixby to approve the final tax levy amount for the year 2010 collectible in 2011 in the amount of \$311,560.00 (3% tax increase) for the City of Cook.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to adopt the 2011 proposed budget as presented and attached to these minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Storm, second by Bixby to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Palm
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer