

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Chetek held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. held in council chambers, 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Martin.

Present: Jeff Martin, Scott Bachowski, Terry Hight, Earl Grover, Mark Edwards

Also present: Cassandra Larson, Carmen Newman

Council members discussed the 2022 budget. The budget committee is proposing no increase in the levy. The levy would remain at \$1,299,000. Personnel committee met for the second time with the police union members. There is no current agreement as the police union is asking for a 12% increase for the regular full-time officers and a 6% difference between the starting wage for an officer and after a one year anniversary. The budget includes a 3% increase across the board for all employees except the library employees whose wages are determined by the library board.

Any additional increase to wages would need to be covered by cutting somewhere else in the budget.

Motion by Grover, 2nd by Bachowski to approve the proposed budget for 2022. Carried.

Motion by Grover, 2nd by Bachowski to approve Resolution 2021-25 moving \$1,225 from the court training budget to court general expense for the purchase of a television for court proceedings.

Carried.

Council members discussed concerns over the 29% increase in the ambulance subsidy for 2022. The increase over last year's subsidy is \$14,000. The subsidy has doubled since 2017. Council members discussed resistance from the ambulance service to provide public records regarding payroll, job descriptions, employee handbook, and other items. A request was made in April, however; not all of the information was provided and the information was not sent in a timely manner.

Council members are concerned about the full-time salaried director position in the amount of \$55,000 that was approved by the Chetek Ambulance Commission back in 2018. Prior to that time, the director was paid a monthly stipend (in 2017 the stipend was \$550 per month) and there wasn't a separate quality assurance position. Council members are questioning the sustainability of maintaining these positions when there is a need to increase the pay to retain EMTs. Council members requested the mayor send another letter asking for records from the ambulance service. Council members feel a joint meeting with all of the supporting townships would be beneficial.

Motion to adjourn by Grover, 2nd by Hight. Carried.

Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer