

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
BUDGET STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Present:**

**Mayor:** P. Beagle  
**Deputy Mayor:** T. Rzeznik  
**Councilmembers:** P. Behrmann  
K. Gottschall  
T. Gronlund-Fox  
P. Sharpe  
R. Smiley

**CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** (None)

Mayor Beagle thanked Fire Captain Brad Geistler for allowing us to use the Fire Station for this meeting and Sheryl Lucas for the pizza and salad.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments at this time.

**Budget Highlight Details/Overview**

The proposed budget contains General Fund revenue of \$13,219,864 and expenditures of \$16,414,499 which includes \$3.2 million in contributions to Major/Local Roads, Safety Path and Land Acquisition. The total millage rate, inclusive of General Operating, Local Road and Safety Path, is proposed to decrease slightly from 11.9458 to 11.8821 due to Headlee rollback. Solid Waste/Recycling rate will decrease to \$165/year due to the new hauling contract effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Water rates are projected to increase 3.5% and Wastewater will remain the same as fiscal year 2021/22. The capital improvement plan includes expenditures of \$2,996,423. These items will be discussed in more detail as we work through each budget.

**General Fund Revenue (p. 31-36)**

This was previously covered.

**City Council (38-39)**

Mr. Brown highlighted the future year of 2023-2024 reflecting a pay raise for the Mayor and Councilmembers. He thought this might improve our chances of getting people to run for these seats. This was included for discussion purposes.

A short discussion followed with most Councilmembers indicating that they were not in favor of this. Many mentioned that they do not do this for the money. A survey of like-sized communities will be done. For now, Mr. Brown indicated that he would take this out of the budget.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

**City Manager's Office (40-41)**

Mr. Brown stated that the Assistant City Manager/Economic Development's salary is split at 50% in this budget, as well as the Economic Development and Assessing Departments. The person in this position was hired for an amount substantially below the previous Department Head. In recognition of actual contributions to the management team, he recommended that the annual salary for this position be raised to \$82,000 overall with \$41,000 reflected in this budget. The fringe benefits would also be affected.

Mayor Beagle stated that the responsibilities of this position include a good deal of work for the DDA and the DDA will now be making contributions to the General Fund which will offset some of those costs.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox questioned if there were results from the recent salary survey. Mr. Benson said that he had preliminary numbers that he and Ms. Stamper have reviewed. It will be brought to the Wage and Salary Committee in the future. This position has a lot of variance depending on the community and how it is done. Rochester has a position that is very similar to Wixom with a longer tenured employee. That person was making \$101,000 when they retired this year. He said that they also looked at Economic Development Directors and Assistant City Managers. With this proposed increase, it would be the lowest of existing Department Heads within the City of Wixom. Based on seniority, that seemed like a reasonable place.

Councilmember Sharpe commented that during the Goal Setting Sessions, one of his concerns was just because we budget a number for salaries didn't mean that was what the salary became. He didn't think the Council should take over the role of the Wage and Salary Committee. He was not in favor of just putting in numbers because we are handwaving a survey with no data behind it. He didn't know why we would be increasing any position by 20%. He did not support this increase based on zero data.

Mayor Beagle said he didn't think when we hired an Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director that this person would be spending time with the DDA. This role has expanded from what we originally planned.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik commented that based on the new responsibilities, this role was much more involved than what he thought it was going to be. He was in support of this.

Councilmember Behrmann asked what the salary range was of the previous Assistant City Manager. Mr. Brown said he wasn't in place at that time. Councilmember Behrmann noted that just because we are increasing this line to \$41,000, doesn't mean we are adjusting the salary to \$82,000. It was still up to the Wage and Salary Committee. Mr. Brown said that this was where he would be looking for that decision to be made. Councilmember Behrmann said he was comfortable with the dollar figure but he was not comfortable making the decision that would be his salary. He thought that was up to the Wage and Salary Committee and the City Manager.

Councilmember Gottschall said that he would be in favor of something more modest,

like more than 3% but less than what was shown. He had questions about the Administrative Secretary position now that Anna Kulas Rosenthal was leaving. He wondered what the Senior Coordinator position would look like. Mr. Brown replied that pending the details, he would like to leave it as is for now. We have advertised for a Senior Coordinator. We may go for a period of time without a Secretary. Also, Councilmember Gottschall noted that Consultants and Personnel wasn't used much. He wondered why that was doubled when we haven't been using that. Mr. Brown replied that he was looking into some team building exercises.

It was decided that the salary for the Assistant City Manager would go to the Wage and Salary Committee for review.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Financial Administration (42-43, 146)**

Councilmember Sharpe noticed there was no increase for the position of Finance Director. Ms. Stamper indicated that typically we include increases for non-union employees in the General Operating budget as a lump sum and they all go to Wage and Salary.

Councilmember Gottschall asked about the printer/scanner under the Capital Improvements. Ms. Stamper said that this was a smaller printer that was used for check processing. The scanner is a small OCR scanner used for checks and backup.

Councilmember Smiley said that last year, Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked that we look into a short-term disability option and he wondered if we ever did that. Ms. Stamper said not specific for Finance expenditures, but we reached out to our benefit consultant. We run into the bank balances that are currently held in sick pay. We can further the analysis with the understanding that would be an expenditure that we would be looking at.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if we paid out 100% of sick time and Ms. Stamper replied no, it is 35% if the employee has reached the criteria. There were questions as to how that would take place.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **City Clerk (44-45)**

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked what account would be impacted if we have Oakland County process our absentee ballots. Ms. Buck said the Election Expense line and the Election Salaries would be affected. She indicated that she would like to use Oakland County in August as a trial run to see how it works before using them for a larger election. She estimated that the cost would be about the same. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought it would be a good idea.

Mayor Beagle asked when we had to notify Oakland County if we would use them for a particular election. She thought it was 90 days.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Information Systems (46-47, 151)**

Mr. Brown said there was a modest increase to System Administration because we are renewing the contract July 1. He said we are recommending staying with the same provider for another year because of the volume of activities. Mr. Benson added that we are still going through the cyber security assessment penetration testing and that will be a year-long process. So far, the results have been positive.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that when we rebid this contract, we need to make sure that cyber security is part of the contract so it is not a one-time event. Threats take different forms regularly.

Councilmember Gottschall questioned the Network Upgrades line under Capital Improvements showing the purchase of replacement file servers and operating systems every year. He doubted that we were purchasing servers every year. He asked what the \$30,000 covered. Mr. Brown replied that this has ongoing activity. He thought the life cycle of a server was 3-5 years and this line tracks that to be replaced on a scheduled basis. Ms. Stamper added that they stagger the work station replacements as well.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Board of Review (48-49)**

Mayor Beagle stated that the Board meets twice a year and each member gets \$200 per meeting.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we could reduce the amount that was in Miscellaneous Operating Expense since we never come close to the \$1,900 that was budgeted. It was agreed to reduce this line to \$1,000.

Councilmember Behrmann wondered why the Board of Review members were paid but the Planning Commissioners and ZBA members were not. Mr. Brown said that these individuals attend meetings for two full days. They have prescribed meeting times and hours.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Economic Dev/Assessing (51-53,154)**

Mr. Benson said the most notable part of this budget was the raise considerations. We are proposing to decrease the second largest portion of this budget, the Economic Development line item. This line was used to become RRC Certified and we have made some progress on that. The expenses for business forums come from this line and there seems to be less interest in this event. He noted that the Contractual Services for Assessing are increasing by 3% and that was per our agreement with Oakland County. He also explained that he would like to purchase a set of matching chairs for his office.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the Economic Development line included travel. Mr. Benson said that it could. He thought that line could come down but he wanted to

leave it in case there were expenses that he was not aware of yet. Advertising and marketing come from this line as well. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if we had staff that did the Assessing and Mr. Brown explained that Ms. Lucas does the day-to-day processing of property transfer affidavits and Mr. Benson does some lot splits and combination activity.

Mr. Benson added that Economic Development line was also used to pay for the Planning Consultant when they do things that aren't specifically related to planning.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik mentioned that the Economic Development line was zero in years past and a number of Councilmembers felt that number should go up so more could be done. He was disappointed that we don't spend more.

Councilmember Gottschall said this line was chronically underspent compared to what we have budgeted. He asked how much more expense we projected before we were certified. Mr. Benson said that he planned to wrap it up by the end of the next fiscal year. He didn't think any project would be more than \$5,000. Councilmember Gottschall said that this one was almost like we set a dollar amount because we wanted to get out there but we haven't spent it. He would like to see a plan. He would also like to see this line reduced quite a bit.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Building Maintenance & Facilities (54-55, 145)**

Mr. Sikma commented that the heating and cooling has gone up considerably from a maintenance prospective and he anticipated that to continue. We are up for a contract renewal with the custodial services. He wanted to put in a UV system for heating and cooling to come from Building Maintenance for health reasons.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he was in favor of UV disinfecting system. He said we really need to think about the ongoing maintenance.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if the generator replacement was part of the ten-year plan. Mr. Sikma said that we are going to replace the generator behind the Police Station. The portable generators were replaced a few years ago.

Councilmember Gottschall questioned the Building Maintenance-General increasing by more than double. Mr. Sikma replied that was due to cleaning the ductwork prior to installing the UV disinfection. Councilmember Gottschall thought we were about two and a half years behind on the UV disinfection. He knew we could have viruses and pandemics in the future, but he wondered if we were a bit late. He wasn't sure it was as relevant as it once was.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he may have had the same opinion had he not had experience with it for two years. He did a petri dish test prior to the installation and mold spores were everywhere. After the UV disinfection, mold spores never appeared. Allergies were down and no one complained about smells. He felt the benefit was beyond the COVID relief. He would be in favor just for that reason.

Councilmember Gottschall thought we could do an air quality test throughout the buildings to see if we were dealing with mold or other issues. He'd rather see if it was absolutely necessary. He hoped if people weren't feeling well, they would know we didn't expect them to come to work until they were feeling better.

Mr. Brown commented that no one saw COVID coming. If we would have had it before COVID, we would be further ahead. It was inevitable that we would be looking at outbreaks in the future and the UV system was proven to be effective.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if he was interested in putting this on all the HVAC systems in all of the buildings. Mr. Sikma replied yes. Councilmember Behrmann said he was fine with moving in that direction and felt it was a smart decision.

Councilmember Smiley said he was on the fence. He wanted to take another look at this when it came to Council for approval. He said if we had this system in place, we still would have been locked down. Mr. Brown said that we don't know what the circumstances would be in the future. It provides protection against the day-to-day things that might result in less sick time and better health for employees.

Mayor Beagle asked what would be done with the \$20,000 shown in the Capital Improvements for the parking lot. Mr. Sikma said that was for crack sealing and striping.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

#### **Legal Assistance (56-57)**

Mr. Brown said that the Tax Litigation has increased slightly as we expect there will be more appeal activity.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

#### **General Operating (58-59)**

Ms. Stamper said that the biggest change to this budget was the MERS Defined Benefit Closeout Cost, which is our pension liability. Audit fees went up by CPI and everything else stayed consistent with prior years. We don't get the renewals for the workers comp and liability insurance until the beginning of June, so she estimated an increase.

Councilmember Sharpe clarified that the actuarial was done in 2020. He thought he read the IRS was increasing the average life span. Ms. Stamper said this would be the actuary that was done December 2020. We will get a new actuary for the end of 2021 in June or July and that will affect our contribution in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Councilmember Sharpe asked what the percentage was for the \$75,000 in the Wage and Salary line. Ms. Stamper said it was an average of 4%. She said they weren't sure what the Wage and Salary Committee would do with certain positions. Councilmember Sharpe asked the Wage and Salary Committee if we would automatically be giving 4% to everybody. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik replied that they would be evaluating this.

Councilmember Gottschall wondered if we could decrease the Copier Service and Supplies-General to \$6,000. All agreed.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that we always seem to under-budget the Auction Cost line. Mr. Sikma said it depended on the value of what we were selling at the time. We pay 5% of what we sell.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Police (61-63, 150)**

Director Moore stated that the Police Chief's salary and the Records Manager's salary will be 100% in the Police budget. He said he requested a slight increase for the Police Service Aids. In 2023, he thought there would be a number of Police Officers and Police Sergeants retiring. We have had good luck recruiting right out of our Service Aids. He indicated that we are about \$1.00 below the starting hourly wage for a Service Aid compared to other departments in the area. He said he was requesting a part-time clerical person for administering the future body-worn camera program. They have seen that the workload has gone up about 100% due to FOIA requests, redactions and discovery requests from defense attorneys.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked when we would be moving forward with the body-worn cameras. Director Moore said he was reluctant to do that without a person to administer the program. If approved, he would start the search tomorrow for that person and then implement the cameras in July with the new Police Chief. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she supported this.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he fully supported the increase and internship for the Service Aids. He also understood the need for someone to administer the body-worn cameras. In regard to the Crossing Guards, he asked if we use our own Police Officers and Director Moore replied no. We partner with the Walled Lake Consolidated School District. They handle the hiring and they oversee the Crossing Guard. We contribute 50% toward their salary. This was for Loon Lake Elementary only; the District will not support a Crossing Guard at Wixom Elementary.

Councilmember Gottschall stated that last year we were at \$769 in the Crossing Guard line and now \$5,800 and then \$6,200 going forward. He wondered if the cost to Wixom was \$3,100. Director Moore replied yes. He explained that the District will not approve a Crossing Guard at Wixom Elementary because they provide bus service for the homes on the east side of Wixom Road and they do not feel it is safe to cross Wixom Road. Councilmember Gottschall said that if we weren't going to be paying for the Crossing Guard at Wixom Elementary, he didn't think we should be budgeting for it if the District was not going to change their position. Director Moore said that he left that in there because he was hopeful there would be a safe place for the children to cross with the completion of Phase 2 of the Trail and they would change their mind.

Councilmember Gottschall said that in looking at this budget as a whole, at times it feels like a runaway expense department. It was 10% last year and 10% this upcoming year and he wondered what we could do in the future to reign that in. In regard to the body-

worn cameras, he asked if it was Director Moore's intention to hire someone full time right away. Director Moore said that he would like to hire a part time clerical person. He said the line would be doubled because we already have a part time person in that account. Next, Councilmember Gottschall asked about the vehicle purchases. With the frequency, the idling and the miles, his research showed vehicles were being driven for approximately 100,000 miles. He wondered if we could afford to go one extra year, or purchase one vehicle instead of two. He also wanted to look at the different options of vehicles, like an electric vehicle.

Director Moore said that after implementing the no idling policy, the idling hours have gone down about 12%. Mr. Sikma added that with the onboard computer systems that these cars have, it is a computer drain on the battery even when the car is turned off. We may be spending less on gas, but we are buying more batteries.

Councilmember Sharpe complimented Director Moore on the nice job on the non-wage containment. He noticed the Gas and Oil went up substantially and he assumed that was reflecting the \$4.00 a gallon currently. He asked if we were spending our money on the body-worn cameras or if we were using grant money. Director Moore said it was listed in the Capital Improvements under Year 2. Councilmember Sharpe said he recently read an article about a Police Department in Rhode Island who gave \$3,000 to each Police Officer who wore a camera because they had to do more. He asked if Director Moore had heard anything more about that. Director Moore checked with his colleagues and no one had heard anything about that. In regard to the wages in this Department, Councilmember Sharpe noted the Police Officers' wages went from \$1,085,512 to \$1,190,045. He asked if there was an additional Officer included in that. He thought we didn't contractually give 8% increases. Director Moore said that we did have an additional Police Officer who was budgeted but we did not have him last fiscal year. Ms. Stamper added that reflects the step increases for the newer Police Officers. The fringes (which went up 16%) covers pension, health insurance, payroll taxes, delta dental, etc. It would also increase because of moving the Police Chief position and the Records Manager position back to 100% in the Police budget.

Councilmember Behrmann asked how many Service Aides we currently had and Director Moore said that we fluctuate between 10-12 and he thought we could use a couple more. Councilmember Behrmann noted that there was no entrance from the building to the fenced in area. He thought we were asking staff to park there and he saw that as a safety issue for them to have to exit the fenced in area. Director Moore said he would discuss this with Mr. Brown. Councilmember Behrmann said he was fine with this budget as presented.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik questioned if we should be continuing the one lease vehicle. Director Moore said that from a tactical prospective, when we lease vehicles for our Detective Bureau, we lease vehicles that do not appear to be police cars. He liked the idea of retiring one vehicle and start to supplant that with the EV options for police cruisers. Also, he said he would like to see us budget for three more of the solar-powered speed limit signs. We could take them out of the Forfeiture Funds and place them on the problem streets. Director Moore said that he budgeted for two from the Forfeiture Funds, but he could make that three.



Discussion was held regarding sending a Service Aid to the Police Academy. Director Moore had budgeted for one, but with possibly four retirements next year, two would be better.

Councilmember Gottschall said in regard to the solar speed limit signs, he wasn't sure they were doing the job. He asked if there was a decrease in tickets on Potter Road. Director Moore didn't have that data with him. He did know that when the public calls regarding speeding, the sign alleviates a lot of their concerns. Councilmember Gottschall asked if our normal Patrol Officers were making any safety stops. Director Moore said they were. They issue about two tickets a shift on average. Councilmember Gottschall wasn't sure the signs were solving any problems. In regard to sending the Service Aids through the Police Academy, his concern was that it seemed we would want to have a mix of outside veterans who could coach or offer experience to the newer Officers right out of the Academy. Director Moore said there was wisdom in that thought.

Mayor Beagle asked how many applications we received for the last Police Officer position. Director Moore replied seven. When he hired in, he went up against 100 other applicants.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said we could still post the position. If we get someone with more experience, we would be saving the money we would have spent to send the Service Aid through the Academy. Director Moore confirmed that there were a lot of options.

Councilmember Smiley confirmed we sent one Service Aid to the Academy so far. Director Moore said that was correct. Councilmember Smiley commented that if we have four openings coming in the next four years, it might be a good idea to budget for at least two to go to the Academy.

Mayor Beagle said he was leery about this. He thought we should budget for one. The new Police Chief might not like this idea.

Discussion was held regarding the purchasing of Police cars. Councilmember Behrmann liked the idea of purchasing two cars a year, which was down from what we used to purchase. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked which Police cars would come out of the rotation. Director Moore replied that the 2017 Ford Explorer would come out and the 2019 Ford Explorer with 52,000 miles would come out. Councilmember Gottschall asked how many miles were typically put on a vehicle after it was passed down from the Police Department. Mr. Sikma replied that they were driven 30,000 to 40,000 more miles. Councilmember Gottschall said that we are selling them after they are passed down before other Departments are even considering taking them out of Police service. He wanted to look into that. The vehicle with the most miles on the list provided by Mr. Sikma has 50,000, which is when they are passed down to another Department. Other Departments aren't finished with their Police vehicles until after 100,000 miles. He thought we could get down to one car a year.

Mayor Beagle asked at what time do we look at a Police car and say it has too many

miles on it. When is it cheaper to fix the car or get a new one. Councilmember Gottschall said no one knows the answer. Maybe purchasing two a year is right; maybe purchasing one a year is right; maybe purchasing two one year and one the next is right. He thought we needed to dive deep into this. There are resources all over the place that have similar weather. Even the Oakland County Sheriffs are driving the Crown Victorias. We should look at the different Police-rated vehicles that are available and talk to different Departments to see how many miles and hours they are getting out of their vehicles before they rotate them.

Councilmember Behrmann commented that we used to purchase three vehicles a year and the Council asked him to go down to two a year. During COVID, we skipped a year. He was comfortable with purchasing two vehicles a year. He felt 50,000 miles for our Police cars was like 100,000 miles the way he drives his car. He would be fine moving forward with this budget tonight with a commitment that staff will put together an assessment of what other communities are doing. Council can look at that when it comes time to make the purchase next year.

Councilmember Sharpe said that the Weapons line under the Capital Improvement has \$4,000. He recognized it was under the \$10,000 limit, but if it involves buying replacement weapons and those replacement weapons are going to be sold, he would like that to come to Council. He would like to make his case for destroying old weapons rather than selling them. Director Moore said this line was for tasers.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

(The Fire Budget was postponed until later in the meeting.)

#### **Building Department (68-69, 144)**

Mr. Benson explained that the revenue and expenditure of this Department were highly dependent on the volume of permits for a given year. SafeBuilt receives 63.5% for providing the Building Official and the Inspectors. The City receives the other 36.5%. He said they did request \$50,000 to renovate the front counter. They would like to have the front area match the other Departments with a walk-up window. This would allow for more space in the office and it would offer more consistent customer service.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the Document Archiving line was for the Planning documents we were scanning in the past. Mr. Benson explained that we continuously collect funds for archiving to scan the old paper files. Because of COVID, we didn't do it last year. We will do a bunch at one time. Councilmember Gottschall asked if there was a large quantity of files that need to be scanned right now. Mr. Benson replied yes. We still maintain property files for every individual property in the City. The goal is to get all of the files scanned in to make them easier to access.

Mr. Pike added that the files are not necessarily on site at City Hall. They were trying to focus on the off-site storage to get those files digitized. It is about getting rid of papers.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if \$7,500 was accurate. Mr. Benson said the goal was to spend that amount; we could spend more. He viewed that as the target amount.

Councilmember Gottschall also asked about the \$10,000 budgeted in the Computer Software and Supplies line. We only used \$2,000 this year and he wondered if that was one that could be adjusted. Mr. Benson replied that some of the increase was related to the new software that we have received. Ms. Stamper indicated that line covers the annual service contract with BS&A and that will increase with more support service.

Councilmember Gottschall said that we just did the cubicles in the Building Department. He asked if work would just be done to the front desk. Mr. Sikma said that they were looking at placing a countertop, similar to the counter in front of the other Departments. There would be glass there with a pass-through window. Mr. Benson added that the L-shaped counter would still be there so they can review plans there. Councilmember Gottschall wished we would have planned a little better. Mr. Sikma said this was more of a COVID issue now. Mr. Benson said it was also for functionality. People walk right up to employee's cubicles and a distinct barrier was appealing. Councilmember Gottschall agreed that there were some boundary issues. He asked if the glass was put up at all Departments because of COVID. This was the feeling he would expect at Redford, not Wixom. He didn't want us to become a glassed-off City Hall. He was not a fan of the whole project so much as setting the boundaries to see how that worked. Mr. Pike said that the money was spent on the cubicles, not the counter. Mr. Benson said the intention was not to refurnish the entire area. The existing cubicles would be moved forward. Mr. Brown said that the glass was put into place because of COVID, but the layout where people are not walking back into the area where employees are would be to keep it consistent with the rest of the building. Councilmember Gottschall said he had previously commented on spending money on resident things versus City Hall things. This isn't benefiting residents. He was not a giant proponent of spending \$50,000 on this.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox understood the rationale and desire to have the counter, but she didn't like the glass. She would like to see all the glass come down and thought it was impersonal. When there is more than one position in a Department budget, she requested that we put how many employees the line covers. Ms. Stamper replied she could do that. There are two employees in this line.

Councilmember Sharpe said the raise was 3.8% on that line item and 5.3% budgeted for 2022/2023, and 5.2% budgeted for 2023/2024. Ms. Stamper explained that there was an individual in that Department that was still on step increases.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he was in favor of setting up the counter and making this Department consistent with the others. He asked if there was a way to make the glass so it could be taken away or put back into place if needed. Mr. Sikma said that there were ways to remove it. Ms. Stamper added that the window at the Finance counter was not only for COVID protection but also to block the breeze in the hallway as a result of the doors opening and closing. There were multiple advantages, including a barrier between the hallway and the cash in this office.

Ms. Stamper had an answer for the Computer line item brought up earlier. She said \$8,150 was the BS&A setup that was modified. It was decided to keep it at \$9,775 based on the timing of the project.

Councilmember Gottschall asked who was being trained. Mr. Pike said that staff should resume the BS&A training and he wouldn't recommend changing that. It should all be used.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **DPW (71-73, 152)**

Mr. Sikma said that the pickup trucks were purchased last year and they sold the old trucks during the winter to get the best price. The 2001 dump truck will be replaced this next year. Every other year, he schedules new mowers. We have five mowers on our fleet and they last about ten years. The backhoe is about 20 years old and we want to do some upgrades this year. They will push out a new backhoe to year 9. They will be working on new hydraulics and maintenance to the engine. We are looking to replace the mower tractor. He said the \$60,000 was for the roof on the cold storage building and he was getting bids on that right now. Also, they would like to purchase new software to implement a work order system. This would have a pothole app for residents to identify potholes geographically. It would also be used for tree replacements.

Councilmember Smiley thought we put off the purchase of an Adopt-a-Box last year. Mr. Sikma said that we were going to purchase two of them but we only purchased one. We could use another one. Currently, we have five of them, as well as a shorter one. A new box is approximately \$9,000.

Councilmember Gottschall recalled someone asking about costing out for lawn cutting. He wondered if we ever did that. Mr. Sikma said we did. At the time, it was more expensive to contract it out. He indicated that we are having a hard time finding seasonal help so we may have to look into it again.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if there was anything budgetarily that we could do to improve the problem areas of the drains. Mr. Sikma said that we are due for a cleaning. We try to clean as many of the catch basins as we can each year. We will be bidding that out again. Most of the expense is foaming, which has improved the quality and prolongs the structure. We have a lot of failures in different subdivisions.

Councilmember Sharpe noticed that the Gas and Oil line was not increased and he wondered if he was using less. Mr. Sikma said that there will be some adjustments. Councilmember Sharpe asked how many employees there were in the DPW. Mr. Sikma said that there are two foremen, one mechanic, six operators and one secretary.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she brought up the Sidewalk Replacement Program during the Goal Sessions. She thought it was too late to do anything for this budget, but wondered if he had any thoughts on that. Mr. Sikma said that we were strategic with the Major Roads just recently to see what the contractor could do. KD Cement did the piece by City Hall and sidewalks along Wixom Road, Maple Road and Beck Road. He said they would like to set up a 50-50 match with subdivisions each year. We have budgeted in this budget for sidewalk replacement. The sidewalk program does have a sunset and we would need a new millage. This would benefit the residents. There are two more years

of Safety Path millage.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

Council recessed at 9:31 p.m. and reconvened at 9:48 p.m.

### **Fire (65-67, 147)**

Director Moore reminded everyone that the salaries for the Director and the Records Manager have been removed from this budget. On the Operating side, the Officers' Compensation was increased due to a change in the Collect Bargaining Agreement. This budget was submitted by the retired Fire Chief so Director Moore made a change to the Fire Recruiting. He tripled that budget, anticipating the need for a lot of recruiting.

Captain Geistler explained that the cardiac monitors that are used on both of our ambulances have reached their end of service life so they are due to be replaced. The fire gear will also need to be replaced and they are approximately \$3,600 each. The last item under Capital Improvements was the second floor of the mezzanine in the equipment storage building.

Mayor Beagle asked if the AEDs had any type of trade-in value. Captain Geistler replied no. Mayor Beagle asked about the unmanned vehicle and Captain Geistler said that was a drone with a thermal imaging camera that was used for search and rescue. Mayor Beagle thought that was a great idea. He recently saw a drone fly over a building looking for hot spots.

Councilmember Sharpe asked about the \$60,000 for the Equipment Storage Building. Captain Geistler indicated that the steel prices went up more than we could forecast and we did have a soil issue. The final bill was \$285,000.

Councilmember Behrmann commented that prior to this meeting, he went back to see the storage building and he felt the improvements made perfect sense. He felt that we have been talking for years about increasing our staffing and he wondered why we weren't budgeting more for staffing. Director Moore replied that we are in the midst of collective bargaining negotiations. Mr. Brown added that with what we have budgeted for rapid response and paid on-call, there was a lot of room for hiring. Councilmember Behrmann said he could support this budget as presented.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the defibrillators were different than the ones that were approved at a recent Council meeting. Captain Geistler explained that they are two different units. Previously, the Council approved an AED unit that is placed inside the City buildings. The monitors on the trucks do more than the AEDs.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he also toured the building and agreed the space will be utilized wisely. He asked about the signal for \$9,000. Mr. Sikma said that when the Fire personnel respond to a call, the signal will be changed on Wixom Road so they will have a faster exit out of the Fire Station. We just submitted a grant application with Oakland County for the design of that.

Mayor Beagle asked if there were any future plans for the training area behind the Fire Station. Captain Geistler said that nothing needs to be fixed that can't be taken out of the Operating Budget.

Councilmember Smiley commented that during the Goal Sessions, hiring more firefighters was discussed. He wondered where the increase fit into the budget. Ms. Stamper replied that we increased the budget last year to accommodate for those hires. That was to do the 24-hour staffing with the part-time model. We continued that with this budget, if that will be the model that comes out of the negotiations. Mr. Brown added that the restructuring plan reflects a new combination of new staff, both full-time and part-time. If we were to meet that goal, we would have an issue. He didn't think we would be able to hire 20 paid on-call firefighters in one year's time.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if there would be drone training. Captain Geistler said that would fall under the training budget.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that the Custodial Services line has the Fire Department showing no increase projected. Those jobs are competing with McDonald's and he thought we would see those costs go up.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

#### **Senior Citizen Activities (74-75)**

Mr. Brown stated that this budget reflects one-third of the Senior Coordinator position coming out of the City Manager's Office. With the Administrative Secretary leaving, he would still advocate for leaving this as is.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the Special Events line could come down. Mr. Brown indicated that was updated because we were going to add some additional events.

Councilmember Sharpe questioned the Senior Transportation line. Ms. Stamper replied that we get SMART credits. They are a revenue line item. This used to be reflected in the Parks and Recreation budget.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

#### **Planning Commission (76-77)**

Mr. Benson said this budget included the cost of the planning consultants. We tentatively increased the Consultants and Personnel line from \$65,100 to \$75,000. That service is currently out for bid and due next Monday. The retainer fee of \$65,100 is from 2013 and had not been adjusted for CPI over the years. We thought that retainer fee would probably increase. Funds have been allocated for the Special Studies line for projects like the Sign Ordinance.

Councilmember Gottschall asked about the Update Maps line. Mr. Benson said that he has had every intention of updating the maps but because the maps are so big, it is a multi-step process. We have 13 different maps of different sizes and he hoped we wouldn't have to update them every year. Councilmember Gottschall felt

that we have talked previously about sending Planning Commissioners to various conferences and workshops but we don't. Mr. Benson said that we offer the conference up to them on a regular basis and it depends on their willingness to take advantage. Having a dedicated budget is looked favorably for our Redevelopment Ready certification process.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals (78-79)**

Councilmember Gottschall said he was tired of seeing unused categories. We offer the members money for conferences and they don't go. Mr. Benson stated that COVID has changed the availability. Councilmember Gottschall indicated that these have been empty for a number of years. He thought RRC was costing us money and it will be nice to be certified, but he wondered what the benefit was financially.

Councilmember Behrmann said that it was not costing us money if people aren't going. His experience being on the Zoning Board of Appeals was that conferences and workshops weren't really pushed. If we want to see them go to these things, we might want to have conversations with them. It might get them more vested and maybe even more interested in moving up to Council. Mr. Benson said one of the requirements that we don't have is implementing a training strategy for our Boards and Commissions.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Parks & Recreation (81-83, 148-149)**

Mayor Beagle thought we should do a square foot thing when the boardwalk for the Habitat goes out for bid. He didn't think all of it needed to be replaced and we might be able to save some money that way. Ms. Magee said that was what was planned.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we were bringing Founders Day back and Ms. Magee replied no. That line item was created for the Strong Man event. Councilmember Gottschall thought we spent more money on the Gibson House than a homeowner spends on their house. He wondered when we would stop spending so much money there. Ms. Magee said this was the last she had scheduled for the Gibson House. We did the first section of the roadway and the \$160,000 was for the remaining roadway. The Historical Society felt that the windows needed to be replaced but we may not spend that money this year. They are having issues determining what kind of windows they want to put in. Councilmember Gottschall asked if the Munshaw Barn would be moved to the Gibson property. Ms. Magee said that a decision had not been made. Mr. Benson added that the DDA has budgeted funds for the upcoming fiscal year to examine the options. The intention there was to have the single document for the DDA and City look at to decide one way or another. Councilmember Gottschall said he talked to a few people about planting wildflowers along the walking path that was going in around the City complex. Ms. Magee said it was included in the Landscaping budget and she would look into that.

Councilmember Sharpe questioned the salaries. He asked if there were two people under the Supervisor line and no one under the Coordinator line. Ms. Magee said there was one person under the Supervisor line and the one person for the Recreation Coordinator was listed under the Part-Time Help.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if there were any recreational grant opportunities. Ms. Magee said that we were currently involved with the grant for the Michigan Air Line Trail for Phase 2. We have a lot of money that we are getting from the Trust fund and they don't tend to reward double. Once the Trail is finished, she thought we should have a better opportunity. We have used the CDBG for the Gibson property for many years.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Cultural Center (84-85, 143)**

Ms. Magee noted that the Center wasn't open for a while due to COVID. We didn't spend the marketing portion but we will be talking about that now.

Councilmember Gottschall said he was hoping to see a marketing plan at some point.

Councilmember Behrmann questioned the \$20,000 for ceiling tiles. Ms. Magee said that we had planned to replace them two years ago but we kept moving that expense back because the building wasn't open. The tiles are old and bowing. This would be in the lounge area. The ballroom was done with the renovations in 2018.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Debt Service– Pension/OPEB (86-89)**

Ms. Stamper stated that this reflects the bond payments for our Pension/OPEB bonds that we did in 2018.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Interfund Transfers (90-91)**

Ms. Stamper said that these reflect our normal Capital Improvement annual contribution of \$995,000. We have new items this year, the Fund Balance that we are utilizing to transfer out to other funds to fund projects to Major Roads, Land Acquisition, Bike Path and Local Roads.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that things are going to get more expensive and he saw \$995,000 for each future year. Over the course of ten years, there could be a large difference.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we were drawing down the Fund Balance. Ms. Stamper replied yes, we are taking money from the General Fund Fund Balance to fund other projects. That puts us at an almost 34% Fund Balance after those transfers.



Councilmember Sharpe asked if we wanted to draw down on our Fund Balance by \$3 million to pay for all of the Capital Improvement plans that were presented.

Mr. Brown said that these are historically blessed times in terms of revenue for us. We have long-term needs that haven't been addressed and we have the opportunity to make some additional investments in roads, sidewalks and other areas that have been presented. Administration was recommending we do more with those additional funds.

Councilmember Sharpe confirmed that the Fund Balance was the percentage of the total expenditures. Ms. Stamper said that was correct. He wondered when we have the discussion. Mr. Brown said this was the appropriate time to verify the Council was still on board with that course of action.

Councilmember Behrmann confirmed that before we transfer this out, we will have a Fund Balance of around \$9 million. Ms. Stamper said that was correct. It was inclusive of the Budget Stabilization Fund. Councilmember Behrmann said how we got the \$9 million was by consistently either having more revenue come in than what we thought or not spending what we budgeted to spend. He asked what our Fund Balance was four years ago versus where we are now. Ms. Stamper said she would have to look back at that. It consistently climbs. Councilmember Behrmann said that because it has been climbing, we are either not budgeting enough or we are being frugal with our money and not spending what was budgeted. Mr. Brown explained that there are things that come in beyond expectations. We had no idea what the personal property tax would be and it came in favorably. That was added to the Fund Balance. There were things that got budgeted that weren't expended, like the boardwalk project. Councilmember Behrmann thought if he went back to look at the budget from four years ago, the Fund Balance would have been \$4-\$5 million and it wouldn't have made sense at that time. Now that we are at \$9 million. It makes sense to invest \$3 million back. Ms. Stamper said that was right. Mr. Brown said that since he has been here, we have done that twice. Councilmember Behrmann said that given that explanation, he was fine with this.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that we have had residents show up at previous budget meetings and ask us how we can sleep at night with that much money in the bank. They felt the taxpayers deserved to have it spent. In good times, you invest in your assets. In bad times, you maintain your assets. We did a good job in 2008 and 2009 of maintaining what assets we had without having to go out for tax increases. He had no problem with it as it still keeps us at 34%. He remembered when Joe Heffernan from Plante Moran would tell us there were many communities in this area that were at 15%. He thought it was time to invest in our infrastructure.

Councilmember Sharpe said another view might be to return that money to the shareholders by reducing taxes. He asked if we wanted to draw down our savings that much to spend on every single Capital project. He said that Councilmember Gottschall noted all the areas where we don't spend the money and at the end of

the year we cheer for the extra money. He didn't think that was good management.

Councilmember Smiley said that we have to budget for things that may or may not happen. It felt like this was good; we have the money to spend on things that need to be maintained. He thought Mr. Brown made the point that we have these good times and we all know a bad time was just as likely sooner rather than later. We are still at a good number when this is all said and done. He was relieved that we were spending this much and we are not using the full 3.5 mills that we could.

Councilmember Sharpe said he was not saying it was wrong. He wanted to make sure all of the Council were going in eyes wide open that yes, we need a \$150,000 restroom at Gunnar Mettala and that we were going to draw out of our savings account to pay for it.

Mayor Beagle commented that you would do the same thing at your house if you needed a new roof. If you had the money, you would fix it. If you didn't have the money, you wouldn't. If we have the money, now is the time to fix things.

Councilmember Sharpe said he wasn't saying that was wrong. The Council has rubberstamped every single thing that has come across them. He wanted to make sure everyone was consciously saying, "Yes, this is the right plan for next year."

Mayor Beagle said there were six yeas and one nay on the Building Department updates. He didn't think the Council was rubberstamping everything. Staff was not asking for anything excessive. Director Moore could use three or four more police officers but that wasn't included in the budget. We would be giving more security back to our citizens.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if the conversation would have been any different if we would have started with looking for ways to spend \$3 million from our savings account. Maybe we would have been more critical on the line items.

Councilmember Gottschall said it goes back to over-collecting. That was something he brought up with 3.5 mills nonsense before. Just because people will give it to us doesn't mean it was okay. If we are over-collecting and adding to things, that was tax money that taxpayers could have not paid. It was almost a game of us saving money, but we are taking it from taxpayers when they could have used that money on their own personal things. The parking lots were done using money from the Budget Stabilization fund, which we dramatically drew down. It was not the General Fund. He didn't see us using a transfer to the Major Roads, Local Roads and Land Acquisition. This was a one-time fix. The \$1.12 million to Major Roads won't fix our roads. He thought we needed to have a millage discussion. We need to break down our roads, our infrastructure needs, and our departmental needs. We need to compare our budget to the millage. He was not a fan of spend, spend, spend because we have the money. Previous Councils have done that and they have left us with no money. We have to make it up by increasing water and wastewater rates. He was leery of spending everything down. If there was an overage like we normally carry (30%), that was fine. He didn't see this as a permanent solution to

our road issue or needing to buy rights-of-way for Beck Road, or any other projects. That was a discussion the Council really needed to have.

Mr. Benson added that with the \$9 million in Fund Balance, it was related to one-time revenues. The idea was to make these contributions at the moment because we can. From an operational or long-term capital expense, it was a whole different conversation. He didn't think there were any proposals to change significantly how we operate with a higher Fund Balance. He said there were communities who do that.

Mr. Brown said that we are still at the 34% mark after all of these additional investments. If he were proposing to spend an additional multi-million dollars, that would be a different story.

Councilmember Gottschall said that was why he had less of a problem with it. He just wanted to clarify that we were spending it down and it wasn't from Budget Stabilization. This was additional General Fund that was being used and it didn't match up with our ongoing needs. He has been harping on that discussion for awhile now.

Mr. Brown said that we still have more needs that we are addressing with these expenditures. Wixom Road is going to need attention; subdivisions have major issues.

Councilmember Sharpe said that the budget is balanced. Mr. Brown said that was another benefit to the community. We are able to make those investments on an ongoing plan basis. We are proactively managing that and he was proud this community has been doing this even before his time.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered about the millages that were coming up. He asked if we could do a ten-year projection. It would be good to determine what it would cost to get the roads to a PASER rating of six and what it would cost to get the roads to a ten. We could look at that to see what the reality was. That might be beneficial for future budget discussions.

Councilmember Sharpe said that if we think that is coming in the future, we should continue to save, rather than spending it down on the bathrooms at Gunnar Mettala. He wondered what the priority was. We may want to take the \$120,000 and put it into next year's roads. It would be that much less we would have to tax people on in the future.

Mr. Brown said that there were different things that needed to be invested in. It was not just roads or the wastewater infrastructure. There was quality of life and parks and recreation amenities. This budget was an effort to balance those competing needs. He was not ashamed to invest in the City Hall facility because if we don't, it will fall down around us eventually. It was a matter of balancing priorities. There are three more years left on the current road millage and two years left on the Safety Path millage.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered about having a community outreach program to see if citizens see the local roads, the safety paths, etc. as an issue.

Mr. Benson thought it made sense. One of the interesting things was having multiple millages. To a certain degree, there was an individual campaign for each of them. He thought that was a great point for discussion. Based on the last time we talked about this, there was a lot of feedback. The next step for staff would be to come back to Council with a plan. None of the millages expire this coming fiscal year.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that when the public has a chance to weigh in on it, it will be easier when they see the ballot language.

There was a general consensus on this budget.

### **Water/Wastewater Enterprise (167-173)**

Ms. Stamper reviewed the Water and Wastewater Projections she distributed. Once again, we contracted with Utility Financial Solutions to do our rate study. We are proposing a 3.5% rate increase for water usage, which was what we are seeing from Detroit to bring the water into the City. This would maintain a good cash balance in the fund and we anticipate the Capital Improvements will grow. The system was brought in during the late 1990s so we will start seeing some Water Capital Improvements that will need to be addressed. Our Commodity Rate will go from \$39.60 to \$41.00. She reviewed the impacts on the various size meters.

For Wastewater, she said we are looking at no increase. Last year, we anticipated 4.9% increases for a four-year time span. She anticipated we would be at 2.9% projected out for the next four years. If we are able to utilize the ARPA funding, we will be able to pull a large project ahead of schedule. If we choose to do something different with the ARPA funding, we would probably have to look at some kind of rate increase for this current year.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the well users would also see a 0% increase. Ms. Stamper said that would be for everybody this year.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered if we would see anything coming down from EGLE saying we would need to make improvements because of the PFAS and PFOA. Mr. Sikma said that our NBDS permit is up for renewal right now. One of the things in there will be a potential for local limits for PFAS. As long as we can keep those levels down, we will be okay. As soon as they go up and stay up for a certain amount of time, they would require some kind of treatment. He didn't anticipate that for at least five years. We are looking at the removal of about a million gallons of sludge that remains at the plant and we are looking at the State Revolving Fund for that. It would be a low interest loan. They are running about 2% right now. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked about the biosolid disposal. Mr. Sikma replied that there are a lot of biosolid challenges right now with PFAS particularly. Massachusetts has banned all biosolid land applications, so it all goes to landfill. We

are fighting that quite extensively and we don't anticipate that happening in Michigan. The PFAS regulations have limits. The hauling of biosolids to fields has been lowered.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

### **Major/Local Streets (95-101)**

Mr. Sikma indicated that we are anticipating some usage of the Act 51 changes. We haven't seen the revenues increase as much as he would have hoped with our population change. We are expecting to gain a little more on mileage in the next couple years but it will be small. Our routine maintenance will remain the same. We are keeping our crack seal budgets the same. We will be working a little bit on West Maple Road for designs this year. Later in the year we will begin the repairs. That will extend through the 2023 season. The Local Streets were similar. They tried to get the worse of the subdivisions completed first.

Councilmember Sharpe recognized that Maple Road was mentioned in both Major and Local Roads. Mr. Sikma said that a portion of Maple Road west of Wixom Road was considered the Major Road.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

### **Cemetery (102-103)**

Mr. Sikma said that the Landscaping and Maintenance line has increased so we can develop the columbarium a little more. We will be placing benches on the two sides with brick pavers and including landscaping.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

### **Safety Path (105-107)**

Mr. Sikma stated we will be working on some downtown sidewalks and we planned the construction on North Wixom Road. We are still having trouble getting some easements. We will start with the corner lot portion at Wixom Road and Hopkins Drive.

Ms. Stamper said there was one revenue change to add to this budget. After the preliminary budget was provided, the DDA Board met and decided to fund the downtown sidewalk project by the Klebba Building. It will be paid back over three years so she was adding a transfer in from the DDA of \$91,667. That will continue each year for three years.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

### **Solid Waste (108-109)**

Mr. Sikma said that we are reducing the residential cost from \$180 to \$165 primarily due to the change to GFL. He noted that we will be repurposing the Waste Management recycling bins with new GFL stickers with the City of Wixom telephone

number. Mr. Brown added that will eliminate the pinch points for potential problems.

Councilmember Behrmann said he liked the idea of getting a new recycling bin as his was 15 years old. Also, the contract said we would get new bins. Mr. Sikma said that we are trying to get money back for this. Waste Management offered this deal to GFL.

Councilmember Gottschall noticed that we were projecting a loss on this. He asked why we were charging \$165 instead of \$166 so we don't have a loss. It would still be a savings to the households. He would rather be charging a dollar more to not lose money. Ms. Stamper said we were trying to keep a round number. After discussion, it was decided to leave it at \$165 per household.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

### **DDA, DDA/VCA Development Bond Fund (110-111, 135)**

Mr. Benson said the sidewalk project was approved after the submission of this budget, so that will be brought back into the final budget prior to adoption. There is a Capital contribution in 2023/2024. They are looking to save funds to spend on the Tot Lot project by the Library. The DDA would like to implement a business development grant program for facades, signs, landscaping, business incentives, etc. The program has not been fully designed yet but they wanted to allocate the funds. They would roll out the program at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. They have funds allocated for Downtown Enhancements, which includes outfitting the Junction common areas and seasonal decorations throughout the downtown. They have separated the money from the hanging flower baskets. He explained that there are many line items with nothing for prior years because those were new lines suggested by the DDA to outline more clearly where their money was going. The DDA has proposed to increase the DDA Director's contract from \$45,000 to \$50,000, which would be the first increase for that position. Also, the DDA budgeted \$30,000 under Special Studies and Services related to the feasibility study for the barn and preparing for the Tot Lot project.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked about the land acquisition. Mr. Benson said that was not included in this budget.

Mr. Brown confirmed that Ms. Stamper would add a line for the contribution to the Safety Path and she agreed.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how many hours the DDA Director worked each week. Ms. Cloutier said she was part-time. Her contract states an average of 25 hours per week and she puts in about 38 hours. As an independent contractor, there are no benefits or taxes withheld.

Mr. Benson added that the Transfer to General Fund showing \$157,366 reflected the proposed Cost Sharing Agreement.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

**L DFA Capital (113-115)**

Ms. Stamper said this budget utilizes the leftover LDFA capture money that we have had on the books for several years to continue working for the Beck Road right-of-way acquisitions.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

**Land Acquisition (116-117)**

Mr. Brown stated the additional million dollars was transferred in. That was the assigned Fund Balance. Ms. Stamper said that we always budget this money anticipating that we will be using all of it.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

**Budget Stabilization (118-119)**

Ms. Stamper said this budget had no changes except for interest earnings.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if this was different than the \$3 million in the General Fund. Ms. Stamper replied yes. The Budget Stabilization Fund is approximately 9% of the Fund Balance, in addition to the 33%.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

**Forfeiture Fund (121-123)**

Director Moore explained there were two forfeiture funds – State or Local Drug Investigations and Federal Drug Investigations. There was \$150,000 in Federal and \$12,000 in State. This money can be used for Police or Law Enforcement purpose.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he would still like to get two more of those speed limit signs. They are only \$2,000 each. Director Moore said he planned to purchase two and we have two. It was agreed to purchase four total during the next Fiscal Year.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

**CDBG Fund (124-125)**

There was a general consensus on the budget.

**American Rescue Plan Act (126-127)**

Ms. Stamper said this was a separate fund to house the funds we receive from ARPA to take those out of the General Fund Balance. This reflects the \$738,204 that we have already received this Fiscal Year. We anticipate receiving the other half next Fiscal Year. She did record a transfer to Wastewater if that was what we chose.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik added that this could come under a special audit, which was why it was good to set this up this way.

Councilmember Gottschall was not in favor of spending this all at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He would like to offer some of the funding to the Library for allowed uses. He felt the Wastewater Treatment Plant should be taking care of itself. Mr. Brown said that it was an allowable expense and it was an investment that needed to be made.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik confirmed that it would show up on the Wastewater fund as a transfer in. Ms. Stamper said she would add that in.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

#### **Special Holding Agency Fund (128-129)**

Ms. Stamper said this was money that we hold in escrow through the Building Department. It was revenue in and expenditure out that was funded by other parties.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

#### **Insurance Fund – Retirees (130-131)**

Ms. Stamper said this was the fund for the retirees' health insurance plan. It records interest earnings on our MERS fund and our general fund contribution for active employees. The expenditures are insurance premiums and the audit.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if there was a contribution that the employees make. Ms. Stamper replied that the active employees make a percentage contribution of 1% and the retirees pay 10% of the premium.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

#### **Tribute Drain Bond Fund (134)**

Ms. Stamper said this budget houses the incoming special assessment revenue from the DDA properties that are affected by the Tribute Drain. The expenditures are the bond payments.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik confirmed that the maintenance of the drain would be the responsibility of the Anthem Tribute when that expires in 2025. Ms. Stamper said that we currently have a maintenance fund and it is set aside for future maintenance. It may be turned over to Oakland County like the Norton Drain.

There was a general consensus on the budget.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments at this time.

#### **CITY MANAGER/ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Brown thanked everyone for putting in a long evening.



**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Smiley** thanked everyone for staying so late.

**Councilmember Behrmann** had no additional comments.

**Councilmember Gottschall** had no comments.

**Councilmember Sharpe** felt this was a good meeting with good discussions.

**Councilmember Gronlund-Fox** had no comments.

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** thanked the Department Heads for their hard work. He said he could support this budget. We should all be proud of our assets. He liked Councilmember Gottschall's comments about looking at the infrastructures. Some of the current Councilmembers may not be here but we should lay the ground work for the future.

**Mayor Beagle** thanked his fellow Councilmembers for the long evening where we got a lot done. He thanked the audience for staying, the Department Heads, and Captain Geistler for his hospitality at the Fire Station.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 5-24-2022
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