

**Village of Fox Crossing  
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Budget Workshop  
Municipal Complex – Arden Tews Assembly Room  
Monday, November 29, 2021 - 6:00 pm**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

President Dale Youngquist called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk Chantel Kasriel noted those present in person: President Dale Youngquist, Trustee Kris Koeppel, Trustee Gregory Ziegler, Trustee Dale McNamee, Trustee Barbara Hanson, Village Manager Jeffrey Sturgell, Director of Finance Myra Piergrossi, Street Superintendent Randy Gallow, Director of Community Development George Dearborn, Fire Chief Brian Harbison, Director of Parks & Recreation Amanda Geiser, Utility Superintendent David Tracey, Director of Information Technology Tim Plagenz, and Attorney Andy Rossmeissl. The following were present via teleconference: Trustee Mark Englebert, Trustee Michael Van Dyke, and Police Chief Scott Blashka. There were three attendees.

**2. Introduction of Village Board Members and Village Staff**

President Youngquist introduced the Village Staff attending the meeting in person and via teleconference.

**3. Review of the Proposed 2022 Budget of the Village of Fox Crossing**

President Youngquist went through the highlights of the proposed budget. He noted some of the data used to complete this budget is a year old as we have not received the full assessment data from the state. The levy is being approved with an estimated tax rate because we do not know the exact value at this time. It is anticipated that the rate will be very close to the projection. The Village receives approximately 25% of the total tax bill, the remaining consists of Winnebago County, the technical college system, and the school districts. For 2022, the Village tax levy is just over \$10 Million. This is just shy of a \$300,000 increase from last year's budget.

Overall, there were very few changes from the 2021 budget. President Youngquist commended Village Manager Sturgell, Director Piergrossi, and all of the Department Heads on the creation of this budget. He stated it was very well thought through and plans for future needs of the Village.

Funds have been set aside for the SAFER grant, allowing the Fire Department to provide part-time staffing which has reduced our response times. The grant will drop from 75% funding to 35% in 2022 and will drop again to 0% funding in 2023. The Village has remained proactive in accounting for this change, helping to reduce the impact in coming years. The budget will also allow the addition of a Police Detective in a department that has been overwhelmed.

This year the Board has decided to use over \$1 Million in general fund savings instead of borrowing. This money will be used for one time projects/capital items. One major item coming out of this fund will be \$408,000 to be used for Village building updates and maintenance. President Youngquist commended the Board on taking a stance to consistently fund the equipment replacement fund which has helped with an abundance of equipment including the Fire Department's ladder truck.

The assessed value is estimated at a 3.96% increase from the prior year. With the added expenses and 1.1% in net new construction, the Village tax rate will go from \$5.01 per thousand to \$4.96 per thousand, a decrease of 1.3%. President Youngquist presented charts showing the breakdown of how tax dollars are spent by department with the highest amounts being spent in the Police Department, Fire Department, and in Debt Service. The Village's tax rates are low compared to surrounding communities, some of which are increasing tax rates.

President Youngquist presented a chart showing the unused debt limit. Our general obligation debt is approximately \$30 Million, leaving the Village with an unused debt portion of approximately \$71 Million. With the village being in such good financial shape our borrowing rate for next year was approved at .75%. It was done on a two year Note Anticipation Note which will allow us time to see the impact of losing Clearwater Paper on our water utility. The Village's water rates have not increased since March 2012. We will await to see what the PSC approves as a rate increase.

The Trustees commended the Village Manager and all Department Heads on putting together a very fiscally responsible budget.

4. **Close the Public Hearing**

Morris Cox - 2150 Deer Prairie Drive

Mr. Cox complimented the Village representatives on their dedication in reviewing the debt and refinancing to lower interest rates.

**MOTION:** Trustee Koeppe, seconded by Trustee Ziegler to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

At 6:33 p.m., President Youngquist adjourned the Public Hearing of the Proposed 2022 Budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantel M. Kasriel, Deputy Clerk

***Note:** These minutes are not to be considered official until acted upon at an upcoming regular meeting, therefore, are subject to revision.*