

Village of Rapids City  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss:

- 2024/2025 Budget Planning Meeting – Parks, Recreation, Cemetery, Public Safety and Public Relations
- Water and Sewer Rate Discussion

President Mire called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call:

Physically Present: Fiems, Rankin, Fowler, Polenske, Robertson and Mire

Absent: DeMarlie

Others:

Physically Present: Clerk Housenga, Public Works Director Bump, Treasurer Barber,

Virtually: None

Mire opened this Committee of the Whole Meeting by reviewing the current list of items budgeted and seeking input from Trustee Polenske on any items needed for parks or cemetery. Annual mulching for the parks around playground equipment was added to the budget.

Mire asked Housenga to verify how reimbursement of the BAAD Grant is paid out. Clerk Housenga will reach out to Tara from MSA to gather information. Mire also asked Clerk Housenga to call East Moline concerning their Snow Angels Program as he has received inquiries from residents about this type of program.

Mire then moved the meeting along to Events Planning with Trustee Fowler. All events were budget accordingly on the budget worksheet.

Cemetery plots will increase to \$600.00 as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Rock Island County Sherriff's contract with the Village has determined the rate for next fiscal year.

The meeting then progressed to the topic of water and sewer utility rates. Mire would like to hold a Town Hall Meeting to not only discuss with the Trustees the water and sewer rates but also the residents holding this meeting in March. Mire is thinking we may be able to forgo a sewer rate increase this year. Implement a Water Tower Rehab Charge on the utility bills monthly that would bring in \$4,000.00 per month or \$48,000.00 per year. This charge would be dedicated to just water tower rehabilitation costs that occur every 15 years or so.

Rankin gave an alternative suggestion of raising the per 1,000-gallon rate after the minimum monthly allotment by \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons.

Bump would like to explore seeking a water rate study to identify by a professional outside firm how much our water rates should be. Mire directed Bump to move forward with the study. It is the Boards hope to have this study complete before the Town Hall Meeting.

Robertson noted at the Town Hall Meeting the board shows the residents that options are being explored to remedy the funding dilemma the water fund is experiencing.

A Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at 6:30pm. Clerk Housenga will get a notice prepared.

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With no further business to conduct Rankin motioned to adjourn this Committee of the Whole Meeting; Fowler seconded. All members of the board concurred, motion passes. President Mire adjourned by consensus of the Board at 6:25pm.

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Missy M. Housenga  
Village Clerk