

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NISSWA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017
4:00 P.M. – CITY HALL**

A special meeting of the Niswawa City Council was held on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Members Present: Jacobson, Johnson, Krautkremer and Ryan.

Members Absent: Heidmann.

Also Present: City Staff Jenny Max, Tom Blomer and Maggie Wentler. Echo reporter Nancy Vogt.

Acting Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

- A. Approval of Freedom Services Agreement for 9/1/2017-8/31/2018 – Motion Krautkremer, seconded by Jacobson to approve the Freedom Services Agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Constitution Week Proclamation – Motion Jacobson, seconded by Krautkremer to designate the week of September 17 – 23, 2017 as Constitution Week. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Discussion of the 2018 Budget and Preliminary Levy

Acting Mayor Ryan turned the meeting over to Jenny Max. Max provided an overview of the preliminary budget and stated that the information provided to the Council was a first review of numbers as provided by each department head. Max noted that overall the initial draft budget reflects total General Fund revenues of \$2,324,732 (3.95% increase over 2017), total General Fund expenditures of \$2,657,968 (4.51% increase over 2017), and a preliminary levy amount of \$1,832,799 (5.00% increase over 2017). The Council reviewed each department's draft budget and asked various questions. Max stated that one area still needing further review is in regards to the Springsted study and compensation levels for staff. Krautkramer noted that he would like to see the Council address the unresolved Springsted issue for the 2018 budget and not push the issue further down the road. Ross said he would like to see the cost amount for bringing staff to steps synonymous with years of service and then the Council can evaluate from that point. Jacobson noted he would be in favor of reviewing what the cost would be for adding a receptionist position at City Hall, in order to provide support to the staff and also to provide enhanced customer service. Jacobson also stated that with the increase in city health insurance premiums for 2018, he would like to see an increase of \$50 for both single and family health insurance coverage included in the draft budget. Max said that she will review the wages and incorporate an estimate of steps being synonymous with years of service as well as the added employer contribution for health insurance for the next budget work shop.

The Council discussed how future road projects should be accounted for in the budget and Blomer noted that an increase was added to the 2018 road investment budget to begin saving for road projects in the future. Krautkremer noted that it is prudent for the city to have cash on hand whenever possible to keep bonding levels low. Blomer said he is working on a five and ten year road improvement plan and will keep the Council informed as the plan progresses.

Motion by Jacobson, seconded by Krautkremer to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Fred Heidmann, Mayor

Jennifer Max, City Administrator/Clerk