Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission – August 7, 2024

At 4:00 p.m., Chairman Klose called the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission to order. Jerry Bergquist, Chad Wolsky, Levi Taylor, Joan Morris, and Mark Klose were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Maureen Wegenke, James River Senior Center, along with the Senior Center accountant, presented the increased levy request. The request is for $187,000 and last year was $130,000. Wegenke stated that a large portion of the increase is due to updating vehicles per DOT guidelines, increases in meal prices, and increased salaries. Chairman Klose inquired about different types of revenues received by the JRSC. Wegenke stated that most of their revenues include federal funds, transportation, catering, fundraising, and donations. There was a bit of confusion with how the mill levy was applied in the budget and the accountant will make a change to their request. The increase will remain in the preliminary budget, and the decrease will be included in the final budget after the accountant is able to make the appropriate amendments.

Morris questioned why there was only an $86,000 decrease in the general fund and asked if anything had been added to the general fund. Shannon Davis, HR Director, stated that this was due to the departments who have salary line items. Alonge stated that the transfer out of highway fund and into the road and bridge fund was also reduced, but is not included in the mill levy calculations because the road department is still at the 10-mill max.

Bergquist vocalized a concern with the Weed Department only levying 2.99 mills when the minimum amount is to be 3 mills to qualify for grants. Jessica Alonge, Auditor/COO, clarified that they need to have the equivalent in dollars of 3 mills in revenue budgeted and the difference in the .01 mill is very minimal and wouldn't prohibit the Weed Department from being eligible for the grants.

A motion to approve the 2025 Preliminary Budget & 2025 Capital Budget was made by Taylor, seconded by Wolsky. Roll call vote: Bergquist, Wolsky, Morris, Taylor, and Klose voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion to set the 2025 Budget Hearing for October 8, 2024, at 6 p.m. was made by Bergquist, seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

At 4:36 p.m. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bergquist. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge Auditor/COO	Mark T. Klose Commission Chairman