

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by the Village President at 5:00 p.m. at the Marshall Buehler Center.

**Present:** President Mancil, Trustees Grunden, McGregor, Moore & Saylor

**Absent:** Trustee Radtke (excused), Trustee Zurfluh (excused)

**Also Present:** D. Gau (Interim Administrator) via ZOOM, S. Drew, D. Tremmel

**Citizens:** Donna Shroda

**Public Comments:** Donna Shroda (Port Edwards Middle/High School Principal) stated that she is representing the School District and sees the need for a Community Resource Officer (CRO). She feels something needs to be done as a preventative measure. The School Board approved funding toward a CRO in the amount of \$65,000.

**Village President's Comments:** None

A draft of the 2024 Budget was presented. The draft was prepared including a full-time Administrator and no fourth police officer. It included more up-to-date, accurate numbers for end of year estimates and budget amounts with information through the end of October.

Most of the discussion involved trying to find a way to include a fourth full-time officer in the 2024 budget. With the School's \$65,000 payment, there would still need to be about \$70,000 cut from the expenses. The Committee was also presented with the following options: (1) A referendum at the April election to increase the tax levy to provide for the fourth officer (CRO). This would leave it up to the voters to decide if they are willing to pay more taxes to provide for the CRO. (2) Take out a loan for the end loader. This would allow for additional expenses to be added for the fourth officer.

The Committee requested that the budget be revised to include the following changes: A loan for the end loader, an additional 2% wage increase for the two current full-time patrol officers, expenses added to include a fourth full-time police officer, and the payment of \$65,000 from the school added to revenues.

Motion (Grunden/McGregor) to create a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port Edwards School District to create a Community Resource Officer position and set \$35,000 in the budget, subject to the Legacy grant.

Clerk Tremmel pointed out that it would require more than \$35,000 in the budget since the Legacy grant is not approved and we do not have an amount to add to revenues for a grant.

The previous motion was retracted.

Motion (Grunden/McGregor) to create a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port Edwards School District subject to receiving the Legacy grant. Motion carried. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Diane Tremmel, Clerk-Treasurer