

**VILLAGE OF ANNA
WORK SESSION OF COUNCIL
September 29, 2015 – Council Chambers - 6:00 P.M.**

Present – Members: Kathleen Eshleman, Mark Pulfer, Cindy Naseman, Jennifer Shoffner, Richard Eshleman, Gary Strasser, Village Administrator/Fiscal Officer Nancy Benroth, Fire Chief Tim Bender, Police Chief Scott Evans, and Mayor Robert Anderson

Others- Police Officers: Erica Brandt and Jeremy Towe
Guest- Tyler Sage

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order with roll call.

Mayor Anderson swore Tyler Sage into Office as a police officer and then followed with the oath of office. Sage will be an auxiliary police officer for the Village of Anna.

The discussion for the work session is to devise a strategic plan to promote and inform the citizens on the ¼% income tax levy that will be on the November 2015 ballot. The intent of the levy is to provide for the police department. Three items of concern for initiating the income tax is to provide for an additional full-time police officer, cruiser replacement and general operating expenses.

K. Eshleman asked if we wished to inform the public by brochures, flyers or signs. If we produce a brochure it should state the police department expenses and the funding we've lost over the recent years and why we need another full-time officer. If we use brochures, would we deliver them door to door or do a bulk mailing? If door to door, would we be knocking and discussing the issue or just leave the brochure? If door to door, it was suggested getting the Ad hoc committee members be involved. R. Eshleman has a listing of them.

Most felt that they did not have time to go door to door but preferred to do a bulk mailing. Benroth will need to check the cost.

Other ways to spread the information would be to place it on the website, an article in the newspaper or a special newsletter and on Facebook. Council would like to find out how the Ad hoc committee got the word out rapidly and covered the town for the petition signatures to retain a police department. They did a great job and had a resounding response. Everyone who receives a utility bill should get the information.

Should signs be erected? Could a poster be created for the Scarecrows in the Park event? Vote for the levy could be on our event sign. Strasser was asked to include a plug during the walking path dedication on Oct. 11th. Letters to the editor should be written. We could ask influential people like Commissioner Ehemann to write a letter as well as those on the Ad hoc Committee.

We would need to set up a Town Hall meeting to answer questions. It was decided that it should be scheduled for October 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary school. Benroth will contact John Holtzapple, the Elementary School Principal to schedule this.

Benroth was asked to gather facts and figures on several items:

1. How much we will lose due to Sidney implementing a raise in the income tax for 2015 by ¼%?
2. What is the expected loss from state H.B. 5 enactment?
3. What is the increase cost in health insurance premiums for the employees?
4. What is the cost of hiring an additional full-time police officer?

Reasons for another full-time police officer:

1. The size of the town has grown and another officer is recommended.
2. Statics state that there should be 1 police officer for every 600 residents. Our last census was 1567. So actually we should have 3.

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The police budget should not only include salaries, benefits and operating expenses but plan and set funds aside for capital improvement purchases such as vehicles and equipment. The rule of thumb is to replace a cruiser every 4 years and the estimate cost is \$45,000.00

Signs were discussed. Naseman stated that a 2' x 4' weatherproof sign could cost approximately \$300.00. We should check Sign Pro in Sidney, Bill Shumaker and Jason Fogt. Locations were discussed. It was decided that one on the corner of Main & Pike would be great. Anderson will check with the owner, Mark Fridley, of 102 E. Main Street for permission. If permitted, Benroth is to gather pricing and send quotes to the Council via email. The sign should say:

SUPPORT

ANNA POLICE LEVY

VOTE YES

www.villageofannaoh.com

The Village website should link to a page or copy of the brochure containing all the relative information.

It was decided that the Eshlemans' should write a newspaper article and forward the draft to everyone by email. It should answer who, what, where and why. The Anna/Botkins page is published on Thursdays in the Sidney Daily News. The article and the website could include statements from businesses, churches and the school supporting the levy to increase the police force.

Adjournment

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Robert S. Anderson

Robert S. Anderson, Mayor

Nancy L. Benroth

Nancy L. Benroth, Fiscal Officer