

December 3, 2013

13-29 wksp.

A Budget Workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Joan L. Theriault, David R. Genthner, Sr., Philip McDonough II, and David Martin. Shane McDougall was absent and excused.

Austin Bleess, City Manager, and Tony Mazzucco, Assistant City Manager.

Department Managers: Scott Susi, Fire Chief; David Ouellette, Public Works Director; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; Lisa Plourde, Housing Executive Director; Kathleen Mazzuchelli, Supt. of Parks & Recreation; Michael Gahagan, Police Chief and Steve Wentworth, Code Enforcement Officer.

Item #1:

The Mayor opened the Budget Workshop by asking which areas Council members wanted to discuss. Councilor Martin stated that the Administration and Department Managers reached the number that was given to them; even though, he may have done it differently he was not going to nitpick. He directed a series of questions to Supt. Mazzuchelli regarding the long term plan for the pool. There was a general discussion regarding decreased attendance at the pool, need for repairs, the amount of water that leaks out of the pool, and whether the pool is worth investing in. It was suggested that a study be done to determine whether it is feasible to continue the operation of the pool.

Councilor Murchison questioned whether it is wise to reduce the budget by using less salt and sand on some of the City's roads. Councilor Genthner commented on the need for road safety. Director Ouellette noted that each snowplow truck route has both an in town and country section to plow and currently it takes approximately four hours for the drivers to complete their routes.

The Council discussed the Library Board's request for an additional \$4,000 for part-time help and questioned whether volunteers could be used instead. Supt. Mazzuchelli spoke about volunteers and how they are already being used at the Library. Council Consensus: Not to increase the Library budget.

Fire Chief Susi answered questions regarding the department's new hires. During 2013, the Ambulance Service had to turn away ninety-nine ambulance runs which would have increased revenues by approximately \$275,000. The runs were ground transfers rather than emergency calls. The Chief provided a brief history of the department and a spreadsheet comparing Caribou's Fire/EMS with communities of comparable size. Since the beginning of the service, the number of ambulance calls has doubled but staffing levels have remained the same. The proposed budget includes two full-time ambulance billing workers. In the future, the Chief would like to add a part-time office worker. The Chief answered questions regarding the department's reserve accounts. The 2013 Capital Reserve Account included the money needed for a new command vehicle.

Mayor and Deputy Mayor complimented staff for the work done on the budget.

Councilor Martin requested a workshop to be held on paving versus chip sealing.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting, December 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Organizational City Council Meeting January 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Workshop adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary