

**BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
May 23, 2012, 2:55-4:35 pm**

Members present: Marilyn Marler, President; Caitlin Copple, Ed Childers, , Adam Hertz; Jason Wiener; Dick Haines; Mike O'Herron, Jon Wilkins; Bob Jaffe.

Members absent: Dave Strohmaier; Cynthia Wolken; Alex Taft.

Others present: Doug Waters, Sharee Fraser, Brentt Ramharter, Scott Paasch, Dee Andersen.

I. Administrative Business: No minutes to approve

A. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda-None

II. Regular Agenda

- A.** Approve the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2013 inclusive of the Fiscal Year 2013 capital improvement program, the TBID and BID budgets and work plans, Park District #1 and Road District #1. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Brentt Ramharter) (Referred to committee: 04/16/12)
HOLD FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Cemetery Discussion - Doug Waters, Cemetery Director, gave background on the reason behind the creation of the Cemetery Care Fund and reviewed the [handout provided](#). He encouraged the committee to read the handout as the issue is complicated.

The committee discussed revising the FY13 budget recommendation from the Administration.

Brentt Ramharter, Finance Director, said they could entertain proposals.

Marilyn Marler stated her understanding of the Cemetery Care Fund. She said the cemetery gets money from the General Fund and also generates their own revenue. They have difficulty meeting the CIP criteria so they set up a Cemetery Care Fund to fund their own projects. They have their own CIP process with their board. When the economy spiraled downward the Administration took all of the Care Fund to help fund the budget and the cemetery agreed, but wanted it back eventually. So years later the Administration has based this year's budget on returning 10% of the care fund this year and in the future 35%. The Cemetery Board would like a 50-50 split.

Sharee Fraser, Cemetery Board Chair, said the time is coming shortly to get the Care Fund back. We can go ahead and increase our rates and we would get the difference or we can do a 50-50 split and not discuss this issue again it would be settled forever. Our new budget requests are for fertilizer and a scanner as we no longer get microfiche from the County anymore.

Adam Hertz asked if there are there other departments that skirt the CIP in this way.

Mr. Ramharter said we allow parks to split their Parks and Recreation Fund Fees, they use it to resurface the tennis courts and buy sporting equipment for ball fields and it's similar to what the cemetery does.

Jason Wiener stated the numbers that are going up are unclear. Administration is saying 10% for this year and 35% next year.

Mr. Wiener and Mr. Waters discussed how Mr. Waters arrived at the numbers on his spreadsheet.

Mr. Waters stated that the cemetery also needs a 10,000 foot fence, an upgrade to the chapel and to be hooked up to City Sewer.

Ms. Marler requested that the Cemetery Care Fund be placed on the tickler list

Bob Jaffe wanted to know why the cemetery requests score so low on the CIP criteria.

Mr. Ramharter said our replacement program was not in place back then. In today's environment it would be easier. 15 years ago they were competing against police cars that are run 24/7 and were worn out. You will find this in a lot of cemeteries. The Administration felt it was a good idea to have their own revenue stream to replace their equipment.

Mr. Water said there was more in the handout as to why they didn't score well. He discussed his fertilizer schedule. He said the staff works hard and that's how they sell the cemetery. He said other departments use it for training; the police department uses the cemetery for swat, canine and motorcycle training.

Ms. Marler asked why scanning costs so much.

Mr. Ramharter said because they are leasing their scanner/copier. If they bought their own machine they would have a debt service component. We do have a new copier replacement program and get them cheap with lease rates that are better than rental.

Health Department/Animal Control Discussion-Ellen Leahy, Health Department Director, reviewed the [presentation provided](#) and said there are new 6 requests total and she will speak to 3. She explained that when she is required to get her numbers to the City by the first week in March, that is 2 months before the County starts their budget process. Because of this her numbers can change.

Mr. Jaffe asked why is the cash from FY11 used for FY12 expenses,

Ms. Leahy said because that is when cash closes out. She discussed the way they spend cash on hand, the new requests and what their needs are. She stated that she is down 1.45 FTE and would like restoration. She also discussed the loss of the immunization program.

Ed Childers said we can't make the decision today. But there is an agreement that should be reexamined and there could be an altered funding mechanism. He said the Health Department does an important and crucial service.

Adam Hertz asked if Ms. Leahy has approached the County.

Ms. Leahy said the County stepped up last year with the Poor Fund but will not do it again this year.

The committee and Ms. Leahy discussed the permissive health insurance levy and the Follow Me program.

Mr. Wiener asked how the vaccines prices are set.

Ms. Leahy said theirs is the least expensive you can get. The serum is free and clients pay \$14 if they can, if they can't pay then they don't.

Mr. Wiener suggested increasing the proportion for the private pay clients.

Ms. Leahy said we are not able to put anymore money into the insurance billing.

Mr. Jaffe asked Mr. Ramharter about the 55-45 split, how does that relate to the tax base.

Mr. Ramharter said 55 City and 45 County.

Ms. Leahy and the committee discussed the extra pay period she needs to prepare for. She said when you pay every two weeks, every 13 years you will get an additional pay period.

III. Held in committee

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Andersen

Administrative Secretary