

Executive Committee Report

The Committee met via Zoom on May 11, 2020

Item 1 - Covid – 19 Status

- The committee was updated on the status of the Covid-19 for the office and parks. There have been no changes in office operations.
- The office is still closed to the public except for the entry area and the full staff is reporting. The public has been very cooperative and except for people coming in for trees or park permits, there has been very little walk-up traffic.
- Parks including campgrounds remain open.
- The only change is that the concrete vault restrooms have been opened and they are cleaned and disinfected on Mondays and Fridays.
- Playgrounds and picnic shelters remain closed.

Item 2 - Budget Committee

- We need to appoint a budget committee.
- Typically, the committee consist of 4 to 5 members and meets twice with the first meeting in early July.
- Volunteers are needed

Item 3 - Salary Schedule

- The committee reviewed information that Bob put together using the NRD statewide salary surveys for the past 4 years.
- The data compared the Nemaha NRD's salaries and salary increases with other NRDs in the state.
- Bob also had data comparing the Nemaha NRD's starting salaries to starting salaries at other NRDs for similar positions.
- It was mentioned that the cost of living had increased 1.5% from March 2019 to March 2020; however, that is expected to go down as the result of Covid and probably will end up at around 1%.
- It was mentioned that staff service time increases will total around \$4,200 this year.
- The committee suggested some additional information for the next meeting.
- No action was taken on salaries.

Item 4 – District Property Valuations

- The 2020 district property valuation is \$7.33 billion
- Department of Revenue has not yet posted the 2020 county by county property valuation change forecast.
- The district property valuation has increased by 18% over the past 5 years and the annual change is as follows:

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2015 | +12.2% |
| 2016 | +3.6% |
| 2017 | +2.0% |
| 2018 | -0.3% |
| 2019 | -0.2% |

- The present district tax levy is 2.68 cents per 100 dollars of valuation
- The FY2020 Tax request was \$1.96 million
- If the tax request remains the same, the committee looked at the impact of a 5% increase to 5% decrease in property valuation and the resulting tax levy would range from 2.55 cents to 2.82 cents.
- Even if valuations dropped by 10% the tax levy would still be under 3.0 cents which is well under the 4.5 cent NRD maximum.

Item 5 - Water Position

- The committee reviewed a draft outline for a potential water position which initially could be partially funded through grants.
- In addition to assisting with regular water department duties, this position would focus on implementing groundwater requirements, information, education, administering cost share programs and working with source water protection projects with public water suppliers.
- No action was taken, but the committee asked for some additional details.

Item 6 - Master Plan

- There was some discussion on the master plan. Bob suggested that this would be a difficult item to discuss via the Zoom platform and he hoped that by next month we could hold in-person committee meetings allowing better discussion.
- It was suggested that once all the committees look at the plan have 1 rep from each committee work on the final plan.