



***RIVER FALLS CITY COUNCIL FISCAL PLAN WORKSHOP***  
**February 13, 2018, 5 p.m.**  
**Training Room, City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, River Falls, WI 54022**

**City Council Members Present:** Mayor Dan Toland, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Chris Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson

**City Staff Present:** Development Services Director Amy Peterson, Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom, City Administrator Scot Simpson, Finance Director Al Rolek, Management Analyst Brandt Johnson, Operations Director Mike Stifter, Management Analyst Keri Schreiner, City Engineer Reid Wronski

**Others:** Aaron Taylor, Ben Fochs, Michael Page, Patricia LaRue, Nathan Stauner

The Mayor called the workshop to order at 4:59 p.m.

City Administrator Simpson would provide a presentation for Council. The Fiscal Plan will come before Council for approval. He provided background on how the Fiscal Plan relates to the City's other plans. Simpson talked about the revenues and expenditures. Revenues are consistent with historical trends. He talked about expenditures.

He showed a slide of the annual levy increases with both the gross levy versus net levy increase. The target for levy appropriations is 60 percent operations, 20 percent debt, 10 percent library, 10 percent capital.

He talked about library support. The library took 16 percent of levy in 2014; shooting for 11 percent by 2023. The average library budget for a town with 10-20k population is \$600,000.

The debt outstanding – over 50 percent from alternative sources, not all TID revenues available, some levy would be needed.

Simpson talked about debt service levy. The Glen Park project is slated for \$3.41 million; the Police building would likely be \$7 million rather than \$5 million with the project moving to 2021; Fire and EMS would be delayed to 2024 or later.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about updates or needs on the Police/Fire/EMS building. There were questions from Council about building maintenance.

Simpson showed a tax supported debt service levy chart and a spreadsheet summary.

Simpson wanted to ask Council if it can make service priorities when it comes to flat staffing. The City can't continue to keep same service levels if no FTEs are hired.

We should assume a cost of \$4.3 million for Glen Park. The shelter alone is \$1.43 million leaving \$2.9 million. Is the delay in public safety building acceptable? It is a domino effect. Other projects following will be delayed.

Is \$0 levy for Kinni corridor acceptable? We should assume the plan is funded by non-general fund levy. Is a 10 percent levy target for the library acceptable with the understanding we may not get to 10 percent but we want to hold it flat?

Aldersperson Downing wanted more staffing for cable. Simpson said the City would have to pull back on other staffing then. Aldersperson Gagne agreed partially with Downing but felt the City should work toward a plan to disband cable.

The Mayor said the City needs to phase cable out within next couple of years. We can work on what people need and get it to them. Both Alderspersons Morrissette and Odeen thought the plan was to phase out the cable. Morrissette mentioned also exploring if the Chamber wants a channel for tourism. Odeen said compared to other projects, this is a small issue.

Aldersperson Bjork would be in favor of bringing two FTEs to provide more services. Mayor said this is something we should look at as we go along. Simpson talked about what needs to happen when adding staff. He talked about limiting big projects if the Council wants to remain flat staffed. He talked about needing staff for public works, utility. Council was interested in adding another code enforcement person. Simpson talked about adding staff for code enforcement, fire inspection, police.

Aldersperson Gagne expressed concern about library – the worn carpet, other building repairs. He wants to be careful on how to strict the City is with their budget.

Simpson asked about acceptance for target for library? There was discussion. Morrissette said there were other opportunities for library. They could seek sponsors for exhibitions or events.

Aldersperson Bjork asked about funding for Glen Park. He asked if it could be diverting elsewhere. Simpson said staff is assuming Glen Park is proceeding and will get done. Aldersperson Watson, who is on the Park Board, said \$4.3 million will do highlights only. He talked about what will be done such as parking, roads, a shelter, splash pad. He didn't know how we could do less and honor the commitment to community. Aldersperson Odeen would be against spending less.

Simpson asked about objection about pushing the Police station back. Gagne expressed concern about building's condition. He feels like it is falling apart. Simpson feels like this is a project that Council has pushed it forward. It was originally slated to be done later. Aldersperson Bjork says it feels like 2021 is around the corner.

Simpson talked about Council's uneasiness about adding no FTEs. He needs to understand their comfort level with raising taxes. Even raising the levy one percent would amount to significant revenue. What's the feeling with Council?

The Council would like to hear more about it in 1:1s with a possible workshop in the future.

The Mayor asked if there were more questions. There were none. The workshop adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan