

HUDSONVILLE CITY COMMISSION
City Commission Minutes

May 27, 2014

Mayor Van Doeselaar called a Work Session of the Hudsonville City Commission to order on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Van Doeselaar, Commissioners Brandsen, Bolhuis, Leerar, Northrup, Raterink, City Manager Waterman and City Clerk Wiersum.

Absent: Commissioner O'Brien

8372. *Contractual Assessing Services with Ottawa County.*

City Manager Waterman reviewed the proposal on contracting assessing services with Ottawa County. This matter came up because Ryan Zuiderveen who was the assessing and financing assistant, is no longer an employee with the City. This gives the City an opportunity to look into whether it is a good time to contract out assessing services with Ottawa County.

City Manager stated that after reviewing the County's proposal, the City would still need to hire a part time person to assist in covering the front desk. The City would then not receiving a cost benefit by going with the County.

Jan Sal and the City Manager did discuss the pros and cons of what affect contracting with the County would have on the City. One benefit would be that the City would gain some experience from the County in dealing with the MTT cases. Also by contracting with the County, it would free up some of Jan's time that she currently spends on reports and administrative work dealing with assessing that she would no longer need to do.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Raterink: Would like to leave the assessing services with City employees. He feels residents would be more comfortable dealing with a person from the City's office rather than a person from the County.

Commissioner Brandsen: Would like to try contracting with the County for assessing services. He feels that it would be difficult for the City to find a person who could handling the assessing and finance position down the road. The City could try contracting with the County and see how it goes.

Commissioner Leerar – He would be interested in having the City try contracting with the County for two years. He also inquired on what Jan Sal’s opinion is on this possibility.

Commissioner Northrup – Inquired on whether the County has someone on staff to do this job. City Manager Waterman indicated that they do have staff available. He stated that he could go either way as far as whether or not to contract with the County

Commissioner Bolhuis – He stated that he does not feel strongly one way or the other, but he is leaning toward leaving assessing services with the City. The City is not guaranteed that the service from the County would be better. Couldn’t we look at this again down the road?

Mayor – Stated that he also could go either way on this decision. He stated that Jan Sal does have a lot of knowledge regarding the City and the history of our City and this would not be the case with an assessor from Ottawa County.

The consensus of the Commission is to discuss this matter further before the regular Commission meeting on June 10. They would like to have Jan Sal present to get her thoughts on making this assessing change. City Manager Waterman will also review in depth the proposed contract with the County, specifically the indemnification clause, and the reimbursable expenses and report back to the City Commission on June 10. He will also contact Commissioner O’Brien and get his thoughts on this proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

8373. Motion by Leerar, seconded by Raterink, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

All aye, motion carried.

Jan Wiersum
Hudsonville City Clerk

Mayor Van Doeselaar