

Village revises borrowing request

Written by Carol Pomeday

Wednesday, 23 December 2009 18:10

Trustees tell adviser \$100,000 less than anticipated is needed because of altered road work schedule

The Village of Belgium's financial adviser was told last week to have documents redone to borrow about \$100,000 less than previously authorized to pay for projects that included the sanitary sewer relay on Maple and Main streets and a main lift station.

A resolution to borrow \$428,700 from the State Trust Fund was defeated by a tie vote. Village President Kevin Kowalkowski and trustees Jeff Ritter and Eric Wilkowski voted to approve the resolution, while trustees Ron Weyker, John Thiele and Clem Gottsacker were opposed.

The village learned the previous week that Ozaukee County will not resurface Main Street until 2011, but no one notified Dave Wagner of Ehlers Associates in Brookfield to change the project list for the loan. Without the Main Street work, village officials were uncertain they would need to borrow that much money.

Wagner arrived at the Dec. 14 meeting expecting the resolution to be approved without debate. Instead, he was caught in the middle of a debate over who should have notified him of the change.

Clerk Lila Mueller said no one instructed her to do so, but Trustee John Thiele said she should have noticed the difference and informed the board or Wagner.

Wagner said he asked people to do favors for him to get the application completed by the end of the year.

"People have bent over backwards to do this for you," Wagner said. "I've gotten people to do things for free. It looks like I'm calling wolf."

Wagner said the village could repay itself for the work done on Maple Street and other related projects and use those funds to finance other projects on Victory and South streets.

"If you end up not using all the money, you can pay it back without penalties," he said. "It limits you to do these projects, but it doesn't require you to do any of them."

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If the loan application has to be rewritten, Wagner said, it would not be ready until February. Additional fees would be about \$2,500, he said.

“Maybe that’s the most prudent thing to do, but make sure it’s what you really need,” Wagner said. “I need a cost estimate you can all agree on. I’m still questioning if it’s going to be \$100,000 less.”

He said the figures he used came from McMahon Associates, the engineering firm designing the projects.

In related business, the board approved four resolutions to issue general obligation bonds for \$529,600 to Team Belgium, \$330,820 to Jer-Mar Park and \$106,800 to Julianne Demge for infrastructure in the tax incremental district. The money comes from taxes assessed on the increased value of the district.

A discrepancy in the sewer fund is being investigated by the village clerk and treasurer. The board approved spending \$64,000 in 2010 for a generator for well No. 2, but the budget shows \$40,500 was spent in 2008. No generator was purchased then and Mueller is checking to see what the funds were used for.