

Village of Rapids City
September 16th, 2025
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss:

- Professional services agreement presented by MSA Professional Services.
- Discussion of the 2025 Tax Levy

President Mire called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call:

Physically Present: DeMarlie, Robertson, Fiems, Fowler, Peschang and Mire

Absent: Polenske

Others:

Physically Present: Treasurer Barber, Clerk Housenga, Public Works Director Bump, Angel Jacobs from MSA Professional Services (7:11pm left the meeting)

Virtually: None

Mire opened this meeting by addressing the proposed contract by MSA Professional Services. Jacobs provided an updated proposal for the asset data collection and GIS setup at a cost of \$26,400.00, water tower rehabilitation at \$28,300.00 and SRF funding administration for \$25,000.00; total agreed costs of \$79,700. Mire did note the clause that mentions Wisconsin has not changed; Angel did state that it could be changed to Illinois.

Bump had talked to IRWA a couple of years back about the data collection and GIS service setup. Therefore, Bump called his contact at IRWA and was provided with a proposal for both systems; wastewater system contracted rate is \$1,899.00 and water system contracted rate is \$5,845.00; total combined rate totals \$7,744.00. The first year of the software maintenance fee is included in the original service agreement, thereafter the cost is \$20.00 monthly.

Mire asked Angel to go back to MSA to verify the asset data collection and GIS setup could be completed by another firm and the remainder of the professional services agreement stay intact. Angel understood the cost concerns and possible savings and appreciated the opportunity to assist the Village with the remainder of the project. Further discussion will take place at the October 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Mire then took up the next topic of discussion for this meeting, the tax levy. Clerk Housenga provided the board with an estimated levy. The assessor increased values of properties again this year. If the tax rate lowers to .515744 the village will still receive an increase of funds of \$8,832.98, this would raise the total property tax by 4.88%, total funds received would be 189,600.00. By law you cannot increase the total taxes at or over 5% without a Truth in Taxation Hearing. Mire would like to raise the rate available to collect for police protection, this rate is currently at 0.075. To escalate that rate a referendum question would have to be added to the next ballot for passage. DeMarlie wants to raise all funds being levied to the maximum amount to catch up and to meet the obligations the village has financially. Other board members agreed with DeMarlie. Housenga and Barber crunched numbers as requested by the board to try to identify the maximum funds levied legally without going over the allotted tax rates determined by statute; total tax rate would be .565251, this would bring in a total property tax to the village of \$207,800.00, the resulting increase would be approximately 14.95%. Mire would like to keep the same rate of .538458 which will result in collecting \$17,182.98 over last year's levy, new total collection of \$197,950.00. Peschang motioned to post at the earliest date possible Truth in Taxation Hearing, adhering with all Illinois laws for such hearing, with a tax rate of .565251, total funds estimated to be received \$207,800.00 overall increase of 14.91%; then following that hearing a Committee of the Whole Meeting is to be held to pass such levy. Fowler seconded the motion; all present members voted yes, motion carries.

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Fiems motioned to adjourn this Committee of the Whole Meeting; Peschang seconded. All members of the board concurred, motion passes. President Mire adjourned by consensus of the Board at 7:56pm.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk