

# Concerned Citizens of New Brighton 4/2017

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

- On a 4-1 vote the 2017 tax levy increase is 6.31% - \$873,700 of additional tax over 2016.
- The average staff salaries increased to approximately \$80K/yr. The City Manager's salary increased to \$160K. In the work session February 7<sup>th</sup> City Manager Dean Lotter stated: *"I don't think the last 10 years would have been the way the last 10 years have gone without me."*
- The increased Excel franchise fees collects \$1M/year towards the General Fund
- Your water bill increased 12% in 2017 to include \$100,000 to purchase Jones Lake. This property is swamp land and was on the market for decades.
- On a 3-2 vote a 300 sq. ft. temporary dwelling for family healthcare living is allowed on residents property that meet requirement setbacks. Water connection can be a hose, and electricity can be connected by an extension cord. International Code Compliance and Association of MN Building Officials spoke against this legislation at the capitol. All other cities, except Osseo, have voted to "opt out" of this state legislation.
- On a 4-1 vote a special use permit allows the United Theological Seminary to house a 300 student K-8 school.

- The City water improvement plan has been successful in providing the community with safe water. We are currently connected to Minneapolis water, however the switch back to New Brighton water is scheduled for some time next year.
- Goal by 2018 all residential water meters will be replaced.

## ***2016/2017 TAX LEVY \$'s***

Taxes in New Brighton have been dramatically increasing in the last three years. **Has this positively impacted you or the city?**

The General Fund has been used to pay for:

- Remodeling of NB Community Center cost \$1,000,000+ with another \$500,000 slated for the Eagle's Nest replacement. Only 12% of residents use NBCC.
- Administrative Costs are 61% of the budget. \$40-\$50K has been set aside for bonuses this year, along with 2.5% raises. Also added benefits, and a \$5,000 pension payment per the City Manager contract agreement.
- Properties purchased by the city such as Lake Jones, business and residential have costs of hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Termination packages have added up to \$300,000+. Newly created staff positions have added \$200,000+.
- Local Government Aid (LGA) – NB receives \$582,300 in 2017; \$457,300 goes into the General Fund.

## ***YOUR OPINION PLEASE***

- **What is the best thing about New Brighton?**
- **What needs to be improved?**
- **What issues would you like to see the Council address?**

Contact us at:

<https://concernedcitizensofnewbrightonmn.wordpress.com/contact/>

**November 7, 2017 is our next municipal election.**

**Early voting begins September 22, 2017. You will be voting for Mayor and two Council Members.**