

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Village of Cottage Grove Cuts Tax Levy by 14.9% for 2010 Budget 2010 Budget Levy will be \$400,590 less than 2009 Budget Levy

The Cottage Grove Village Board has voted 5-0 (two absent) to approve its 2010 Village Budget with a total property tax levy of \$2,282,297 and a tax rate of \$4.37 per thousand. The 2009 budget was funded with a property tax levy of \$2,682,887 and a tax rate of \$5.09 per thousand.

“Village taxpayers sent a clear message they wanted real change. The Village Board promised to be fiscally responsible and delivered a budget built on funding needs not wants,” said Mike Mikalsen, Village President.

The 2010 Village budget maintains funding levels for the police, fire and EMS departments. Even with the overall budget reductions, the Village will prioritize public safety by spending 43 cents of every general fund dollar on these services and 31 cents of every general fund dollar on public works. The remaining 26 cents will be spent on general government functions, recreation, human services and economic development.

“The 2010 budget puts the Village in a much better position to deal with what could be an even more challenging set of fiscal conditions in 2011. The Village Board and staff worked cooperatively in reviewing line-item by line-item for every dollar of possible reduction,” said Kim Manley, Village Administrator.

Non-union Village staff will receive no pay increases in 2010 and will pay a slightly higher contribution towards their health insurance. The police officers working for the joint department decided to keep their 3% pay increase in 2010, but that increase will be offset by each officer taking up to 15.5 unpaid days off or schedule adjustment days. The public should see little to no reduction in police staffing each shift through reassignment of the detective position back to patrol and when necessary increased use of administrative officers to maintain coverage.

“The Village of Cottage Grove recognized the need to set a new course in governing. One in which the taxpayers ability to pay is a higher priority than the will of government to simply spend more,” said Mike Mikalsen, Village President.

Mike Mikalsen

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