

Compliance and the presence of unregistered rentals. People are encouraged to report any unregistered rentals in their area. ~ Violent crime in the city is down, but property crime is up. Keep car doors locked to prevent theft, and report any theft or suspected issues to the LPD, so they can track incidents.

Area 3: Aaron Beavers presented the winners of the Christmas Light Contest. First place went to Mary Brinks, 2nd place to Fidel and Joan Placio, and Honorable Mentions went to Rebecca Taylor and Dan & Amy Hayes. ~ Everett High School is looking for a golf coach. If anyone is interested, contact Aaron. ~ Aaron will be bringing LCC news and updates to future meetings. Volunteers are needed for activities and committees. Sign up sheets will be at CVNA meetings or people can contact board members.

Ingham County Commissioner Report: Vic Celentino

Vic is now the Chair of the Law and Courts Committee and has put the 911 Call Center on the committee's agenda each month. They will receive reports from the center director and address any issues. ~ Vic is also a member of the County Services Committee. ~ Meetings are getting started after the election-season break.

Program

SLCDA: Chris Klein and Kathy Dunbar, "Understanding Municipal Budgets"

SLDA has small grant to increase understanding of city budgets. They can also have a follow-up discussion of our city budget when it is released.

Sources of undesignated city funding (\$ can go to any department/area): Taxes (Income, Property), State Revenue Sharing. Sources of designated city funding (\$ must go to specific department): Grants, Fees, Gas Tax, Special Revenue Funds (stadium fund, drug forfeitures, code compliance abatement fees, etc.), Enterprise Funds (self-funding departments): Sewer, Parking, Waste Management (trash/recycling). The ROI Payment from BWL is 5% of their profits paid in lieu of paying taxes.

Fund Balance ("city savings account"): Goal is to have 10%-15% of budget in reserve, currently at 4%-5%. The money can be used for unseen expenses to balance the budget, since the city cannot, by law, have an unbalanced budget. Pulling from this fund can hurt the city's bond rating and borrowing ability in the long run.

Lansing costs are increasing from 5%-17% per year. The city is especially hit hard on pension funding, health care costs, and unmet retirement. The current year is expected to have a \$9 million deficit, where budgeted revenues are less than actual costs. Budgets start the year balanced, where expected revenue covers expected costs.

Overall, Lansing has a AA bond rating and is in good financial shape, especially compared to other major cities in Michigan. Kathy and Chris will return in April after the draft budget is released and will go through the budget with the CVNA.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 pm Next Meeting: March 20, 2013