

# The Arlington Report

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor  
 John Griep -- Council Member  
 Jim Pederson -- Council Member  
 Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member  
 Curt Reetz -- Council Member  
 Mike Vrklan -- Council Member

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Matt Jaunich -- City Administrator  
 Dennis Schultz -- EDA Director  
 Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk  
 Vicki Pomplun -- Admin. Ass't  
 Lana Woehler -- Community Center Coordinator  
 Dan Thomes -- Streets/Parks Supt.  
 Jeff Paine -- Maintenance Worker  
 Bruce Rovinsky -- Chief of Police  
 Scott Bennett -- Police Officer

## CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Ameson -- City Attorney  
 Cynthia Smith-Strack -- Planning & Zoning Consultant  
 Darin Haslip -- Building Inspector  
 People Service -- Water/Wastewater  
 Joel Hawbaker (Bolton & Menk) -- City Engineer

## PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall: 964-2378  
 Fax Line: 964-5973  
 After-Hours On-Call:  
 507-327-6601  
 Fire Garage: 964-2279  
 Police Dept: 964-5200  
 Library: 964-2490  
 Hospital: 964-2271  
 S.E. School: 964-2292  
 Post Office: 964-5503

## OTHER SERVICES

*Water/Sewer/Electric Services*  
 City of Arlington (964-2378)  
*Gas Service*  
 CenterPoint Energy (800-245-2377)  
*Cable Service*  
 Mediacom (800-332-0245)  
*Internet/Phone Service*  
 Frontier (800-435-1504)  
*Garbage Services*  
 Waste Management (800-422-5785)  
 Tidy Disposal (952-873-2636)  
 Evergreen Sanitation (877-601-4467)

## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 3% TAX LEVY INCREASE, ADOPTS 2009 BUDGET

At a special meeting of the Council on December 22nd, the City Council moved to increase the tax levy by 3% from \$679,280 in 2008 to \$699,659 for 2009. The 3% increase was lower than the preliminary levy set in September. The preliminary levy showed a 8% increase. Comprehensive efforts by the City Council contributed to the lower tax levy. The Council cut \$34,364 in additional spending to get to the 3% tax levy increase. Following the approval of the levy, the Council moved to pass the municipal budget for 2009.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
General Fund	\$1,687,533	\$1,687,533
Other Financing	\$70,620	\$200,000

### SPECIAL FUNDS

Public Safety	\$341,335	\$341,335
Comm. Center	\$92,715	\$92,715
Rev. Loan Fund	\$20,074	\$0
Cemetery Fund	\$14,525	\$12,825
TIF District #2	\$54,000	\$4,791
Amb. Retire.	\$1,600	\$0

### ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Water Fund	\$387,935	\$408,630
Sewer Fund	\$366,710	\$367,816
Electric Fund	\$1,768,200	\$2,020,389

### DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

2000 Imp. Bond	\$26,226	\$23,455
2001 Imp. Bond	\$27,333	\$34,095
2004 Imp. Bond	\$92,465	\$90,258
2004 Ref. Bond	\$277,038	\$276,788
W. W. Sinking	\$36,500	\$36,381
GO Equip. Cert.	\$67,000	\$0
Amb. Cert.	\$360	\$0
Fire Certificates	\$1,500	\$0
2004 Pub. Proj.	\$39,300	\$69,766
Total Funds:	\$5,372,969	\$5,666,777

## A WELCOME AND A THANK YOU!

Starting the first meeting in January, Arlington will welcome two new council members to the Board. Jim Pederson and Bob Pichelmann will assume their roles as council members for the City. Both are newcomers to city council life. Jim and Bob take over the seats vacated by Galen Wills and Gregg Borchert who declined to run again for office after serving four years on the City Council. John Griep was reelected and will begin his second full-term on the Council in January. Thank you to Galen and Gregg for your years of service and welcome to Jim and Bob in your new roles.

## WATER RATES TO INCREASE IN 2009

At the December 15th council meeting, the City Council passed a resolution increasing the water rates for 2009. Starting with your water usage in January (billable in February), Arlington users will see a slight increase in their water rates. The per gallon usage rate will increase from \$4.38 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.60. Base rates will increase 5% across all service sizes. A residential property owner using about 3,000 gallons of water a month, will see an estimated monthly increase in their bill of \$1.10. The rate increase was passed to offset operating losses in the water fund.

## SNOW EMERGENCY NOTICE

Residents should remember that the City of Arlington will be hauling and plowing snow anytime there is a snowfall of two (2) inches or more. Residents need to be aware that the City will plow at anytime and that vehicles need to be removed after two inches of snow. To take out the "guesswork" on whether or not two inches have/are going to fall, City Staff recommends that vehicles/trailers be removed from the street anytime it snows. The City asks that all vehicles and trailers be parked off the streets and avenues until they are plowed from curb to curb or they will be ticketed and towed. Vehicles that interfere with City maintenance activity, such as snow removal, may be towed to a designated area at the expense of the owner. The vehicle will be impounded until all parking fines, towing and storage charges have been paid. Unclaimed vehicles will be sold and the proceeds applied first against such fines and charges. Repeat violators will be towed without additional notice.

## SNOWMOBILE & ATV OPERATORS NOTICE

Recently, City Staff has received some complaints from private property owners regarding snowmobiles. Snowmobile and ATV operators should be aware that city ordinance requires you to use public roadway or alley by the most direct route when entering or leaving town. Snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed to be operated on sidewalks or boulevards, nor are they to be operated on private property without prior consent of the owner. Also, city ordinance prohibits the use of snowmobiles and ATVs on any cemetery land or city park/recreation area. Speed is not to exceed 15 miles per hour within city limits. Also, please be aware that the TC&W Railroad, Minnesota Prairie Line, and Minnesota Valley Rail Authority prohibit snowmobiles and ATVs to operate on or traverse its property.

**City Offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1st and Monday, January 19th for the New Years and Martin Luther King Jr. Holidays.**

## City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:  
204 Shamrock Drive  
Arlington, MN 55307

Phone: 507-964-2378  
Fax: 507-964-5973  
E-mail: [cityhall@arlingtonmn.com](mailto:cityhall@arlingtonmn.com)



*A Beautiful City Growing in Unity*



## MMPA ANOUNCES WIND ENERGY TURBINE PROGRAM

After nearly two years of discussion, it has finally been established that Arlington will be one of eleven Minnesota cities to host a wind turbine to create clean, renewable electricity under the "Hometown WindPower" program. MMPA has established the Program to meet the State of Minnesota's state-wide mandate on renewable energy. Hometown WindPower is an initiative of the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA), the power supplier for the City of Arlington. Other member cities include Anoka, Brownton, Buffalo, Chaska, East Grand Forks, Le Sueur, North St. Paul, Olivia, Shakopee and Winthrop. The program was designed by Avant Energy, MMPA's energy management company and the designer of MMPA's Faribault Energy Park electrical generation facility. Several locations for the turbine are currently being looked at by the Arlington City Council and the final location will be determined by the City. "Wind power is most efficient when it can be used at the point of generation, rather than being transmitted many miles away," said Avant Energy president Derick Dahlen. Hometown WindPower will put power generation right into the community where it will be used, and it will happen using a clean, endlessly renewable source of power.

Dave Pokorney, chairman of MMPA and former Chaska city administrator, said every city in the MMPA system can be proud of hosting a turbine. "All benefits stay local," Pokorney said. "Each city gets locally-generated power that is carbon-free, renewable and environmentally responsible". Pokorney said the Hometown WindPower turbines will contribute to MMPA's requirement under Minnesota law to achieve a goal of 25 percent of its power used to be from renewable resources by 2025. He said MMPA currently purchases wind and hydro power from outside sources, along with generating electricity from its owned facilities, including Faribault Energy Park. Dahlen pointed out that in this age of environmental awareness, this program is an opportunity for MMPA member communities to become a part of the solution to energy needs in the state with a renewable source that helps avoid the need for building undesirable coal-fired plants. "Wind is free, it's there in endless supply, and it's the cleanest source of energy we have. I believe these turbines will be positive symbols of communities that are forward-thinking about renewable energy," Dahlen said.

Each turbine will cost in the neighborhood of \$300,000, to be financed by MMPA with renewable energy bonds sold to investors. MMPA has committed to purchase the wind turbine equipment for the program from enXco Services Corp. of California. "We expect to begin installation of the turbines in the spring of 2009 with installation at all locations completed over the summer," said Avant Energy project manager Dave Boyles. Boyles said the wind program is both practical and symbolic of the future of generating electricity. "We can create up to about 160 KW of power in each city with these community-sized turbines, enough to power about 200 homes, and at the same time show our communities that MMPA and its members are committed to clean, green, renewable energy," Boyles said. The footprint for the turbines is between a quarter and a half of an acre. The turbine placed in each city will be roughly 115 feet tall - the size of many water towers. (Source: MMPA)

## STATE FACING DEFICIT -- ARLINGTON RECEIVES STATE AID CUT

In early December it was announced that the State of Minnesota was facing a significant state budget deficit. The announcement included a \$426 million short-term deficit for the remaining six months of the 2008-2009 biennium budget which ends on 6/30/2009. More significantly was the announcement of a \$4.8 billion long-term deficit projection for the upcoming biennium budget that begins 7/1/2009. On December 19th, in response to the deficit, Governor Tim Pawlenty announced his decisions to balance the state's short-term, \$426 million deficit. For cities, the decision reduced the December 26th payment of Local Government Aid (LGA) and Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) reimbursements by a total of \$66,009,930. Cities under 1,000 in population were exempted from the cuts. The decision by the Governor reduced Arlington's December LGA payment by \$56,348. Overall, the cut represents roughly 4 percent of Arlington's "revenue base", which is the City's 2008 levy plus 2008 LGA. To cover the remaining balance of the short-term deficit, the Governor also confirmed that the state's remaining \$155 million rainy day fund would be entirely depleted and that state agency appropriations would be reduced by \$40 million. The balance of the cuts will be taken from counties (\$44 million), health and human service programs (\$73 million), the University of Min-

nesota (\$20 million) and MNSCU (\$20 million), state agencies (\$40 million), Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (\$4 million), and the 21st century mineral fund (\$1.5 million). The Arlington City Council used fund reserves to absorb the cut in State Aid for the 2008 budget. The December cut may be the beginning of a larger concern for the City. For the longer term, the State is faced with a massive \$4.8 billion 2010-2011 budget deficit that must be addressed by the 2009 legislature. During the budget crisis of 2002/2003, the State used all of the easy sources of revenue and reserves, including more than \$1 billion in tobacco settlement funds to balance the biennium's \$4.5 billion deficit. Despite the extensive use of state reserves during the 2003 session, cities were still saddled with \$142 million in mid-year 2003 LGA and MVHC reimbursement cuts and an additional \$170 million cut in 2004. Given that the relatively easy solutions no longer exist, cities will likely be facing additional proposed aid cuts when the Governor unveils his 2010-2011 budget later this month and as the legislature crafts its budget proposals later in the 2009 legislative session. If the City receives additional State Aid cuts, Arlington residents may be faced with increases to the tax levy and/or a reduction in city services. (Source: League of Minnesota Cities)