

Proposed MRHS Bylaws Revision

From time to time the MRHS board is required to review the society bylaws to assure that they continue to reflect the purpose and operations of the Society. The bylaws were last updated in June of 2019. The Board is proposing the following revision to the society bylaws to streamline the annual budgeting process and to improve the accuracy of the proposed budget. In accordance with our bylaws, this proposed revision is being published in the Spring newsletter and posted on the MRHS website in advance of a vote at the Annual Meeting to be held at this summer's MRHS convention in Rochester, MN.

Current MRHS Bylaws (last revised June 2019)

Article IV – Section 5

“The proposed budget for the oncoming fiscal year shall be presented for review and approval at the annual meeting. Expenditures under the approved budget may not exceed the total amount of approved expenditures in the budget unless there is an offsetting increase in income, or the expenditures are approved in advance by the Board.”

Discussion

A current focus of the MRHS board is to produce a balanced budget where revenues offset expenses. Considering the comfortable financial situation of the society with ample assets in checking and savings, the goal of the board is to simply operate the society in a breakeven situation. The development of the proposed budget under the current bylaws requires the MRHS Treasurer to develop the proposed budget for the following year in February of the current year so that it can be published in the Spring Newsletter and then approved at the Annual Meeting held at the Summer Convention. It is felt that developing a budget for next year, some 10 to 20 months in advance of any revenues/expenses, and before essentially any revenues/expenses are incurred in the current year cannot produce a reasonably accurate budget forecast. It is proposed to follow the AHS bylaws budget process timeline in this regard. The AHS Board develops a budget at their November meeting for the following year. The budget is then approved at that same time by the Board. This is consistent with the overwhelming majority of both non-profit and for-profit organizations. This proposed revision would in no way diminish any financial transparency as the society financials would continue to be reported in each society newsletter and at the summer convention annual meeting.

Proposed Revision (July 2023)

Article IV – Section 5

“The proposed budget for the oncoming fiscal year shall be presented for review and approval at the annual meeting by the Board at the end of the current year, and then presented for review at the annual meeting. Expenditures under the approved budget may not exceed the total amount of approved expenditures in the budget unless there is an offsetting increase in income, or the expenditures are approved in advance by the Board.”