

PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, November 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. – Wascott Town Hall

Public Hearing

- 1) Call to Order - Chair Jim Boughner called the Public Hearing to order at 10:07 a.m.
- 2) Purpose of Hearing - Chair Boughner reviewed the process for the Public Hearing commenting motions and voting are out of order.
- 3) Presentation of the Town Board's proposed 2017 Budget and Recommended 2016 Tax Levy - Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson presented the 2017 Proposed Budget on behalf of the Board. Clerk Atkinson thanked the Town Board for their cooperative efforts in the development of the budget. The management of the Town's finances has brought us to a point where the Town has a very healthy fund balance. The 2017 Budget will reflect the allocation of funds for the purchase of highway and fire department equipment, road maintenance, and improvements to the town hall. **The estimated year-end 2016 fund balance is \$988,074.** This includes unbudgeted revenues from a July 11, 2016 storm in the amount of approximately \$130,000 from FEMA monies. In total for the year ending 2016, the budget reflected **expenditures were under budget,** and **revenues were over budget** **resulting in an estimated \$306,936 added to the fund balance.** This amount reflects monies yet to come in from the LRIP and Smith Bridge projects, which may not be received until early 2017. These are State funded projects and takes time to process. Paperwork has been submitted.

The **2017 Budget is \$2,054,875** with a **Town Tax Levy of \$715,700** - which is the allowable limit. The Budget includes the purchase of highway equipment in the amount of \$409,952, fire department tanker in the amount of \$260,000 (loan), monies for road maintenance in the amount of \$320,000 (up from \$275,000), new address signs for \$42,000, and improvements to the Town Hall. Clerk Atkinson reiterated that since the Town has a large fund balance, it is recommended by the Department of Revenue the need to decrease the fund balance to a reasonable level. So is why the 2017 Budget has increased this year to accommodate the spending of the fund balance to purchase some much needed equipment. **Even with this additional spending, the 2017 fund balance is estimated at \$518,122.** Keep in mind – the Budget is a “best estimate” of the Town's anticipated revenues and expenditures. Clerk Atkinson concluded by stating because of the Town's excellent sound financial state, the 2017 Budget reflects this opportunity for providing these additional services and purchases. The Town Board is responsible for the adoption and approval of the final budget.
- 4) Public Comments – *Bob Beglinger* commented he felt the budget was one of the most irresponsible budgets ever stating he would like to see more monies invested in roads rather than equipment. Would like to see a long range plan developed for roads and equipment purchases. *Jan Newsome* commented that she would like to see more monies allocated to road maintenance as well. *Jan Jenson* – on behalf of the new Cemetery Committee, related that the Veteran's Memorial project is moving forward and are excited monies are allocated in the 2017 budget. Fund raising has begun and monies have been received. Grants are being applied for. Jan thanked the Town Board for their support in this project as a way to honor our Veterans.

Special Town Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Boughner at 10:48 a.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Verification of qualified electors present at meeting – 19 registered voters; 1 non voter.
4. Verification of public notice and approval of agenda – **A Robert Fritzke/Steve Trainor motion to approve agenda; motion carried by a voice vote.**
5. Approve minutes of the Special Town Meeting of November 14, 2015 – **A Robert Fritzke/Chuck McDermott motion to approve; motion carried by a voice vote.**
6. Review procedural rules for conduct of the Special Town Meeting - Chair Boughner commented after the Public Hearing on the budget and the Special Town Meeting, the Town Board adopts the budget. The Town Meeting has the authority to levy the amount of taxes. The Town Meeting does not have the authority to adopt the budget.
7. Specific matters for discussion and possible action by the qualified electors present:
 - a) Authorize the Town Board to appropriate monies for certain conservation projects, civic donations, and cemetery improvements in the 2017 budget (Stat. 60.10(3)(b) – Jan Newsome commented the donation for Economic Development/Tourism should be \$1,500, thereby reflecting total civic donations in the amount of \$5,200.
A Janice Newsome/Robert Fritzke motion to approve 2017 civic donations in the amount of \$5,200; motion carried by a voice vote.
 - b) Approve Resolution 2016-12 – Electors to Adopt the 2016 Town Tax Levy Collected in 2017 pursuant to Sec. 60.10(1)(a) of the WI Statutes – **A Chuck McDermott/Robert Beglinger motion approving the 2016 Town Tax Levy in the amount of \$715,700.**
Discussion – *Bob Beglinger* commented that he is not opposed to the recommended levy but just has an issue with the allocation of spending in the 2017 budget. Does not want to cripple the Town by reducing the levy. *Jim Boughner*-if we lower the levy, it makes it difficult in the future. The budget went through a process having input from the highway road crew and others. I am not against what has been proposed. *Bill Stapp* cautioned the approval of this budget. The Town's Association stated we need to spend some of the town's fund balance, but that doesn't mean all in one year. *Jeannette Atkinson* voiced her support of the budget reiterating the fact that the Town, through the years of good financial management, has come to a point where the Town needs to spend some of these monies! It is important to note that ***additional monies were received this year due to unanticipated circumstances.*** The Town Board has the authority for the final approval of the 2017 budget.
Number of town electors voting aye – 14; Number of town electors voting nay – 5. Motion carried.
8. **A Chuck McDermott/Jan Jenson motion to adjourn meeting at 11:32 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson
Clerk/Treasurer