

Public Budget Hearing
December 7, 2017

Tom Egan opened the Public hearing of the proposed 2017 Budget at 6:35 pm on December 7th, 2016 with the pledge of allegiance.

Peggy Hendricks presented the 2017 Budget. A power point presentation was presented along with handouts.

Hendricks explained that last year at the Electors meeting, a resolution to increase the levy by \$108,180 was approved by the Town electors for road work. According to the DOR, this increase stays until the Town of Electors vote to discontinue the increase. This will be voted on at the Special meeting of electors following the presentation.

Garbage cost on the tax bill will be \$173.50 where as it was \$169 in 2017.

Public comments were taken. Pat Schoonover asked how the increase in levy could be discontinued. Hendricks stated that the Town electors would vote to decrease the levy by \$108,108 and this would be shown in the Clerks report – the Statement of Taxes, which is sent to the Department of Revenue and reflected on the tax bill. Tom Egan asked what the difference would be with the increase or without. Last year it was an increase of .95/thousand. This year it would be around .70/thousand. Pat Schoonover asked if state aid had increased. This year Transportation Aid went from \$103,164 to \$111,925. This is the first increase in many years. Pat Schoonover asked if any money left over in the budget can be earmarked for roads. Hendricks said that it would be, for the Board voted for this last year.

Road projects for 2018 was discussed. Edgewater, River Road, Lost Lane, Delhi Road and Old E was discussed. It was stated that road costs have gone up immensely. Kafer stated that when he got on the board and for many years, the town always tried to do 5 miles of chip & seal, which they did up to about 5 years ago. When he first got on, it was \$5600/mile. The last time the Town chip & sealed, the cost was \$27,000/mile. The Town does a lot of wedging right now with the intention to chip and seal the following year. Crack sealing is needed on many roads. Pat Schoonover thinks that we pay Friends too much money for road maintenance. It was stated that the County charges much more. It was said that it is possible that we could have both do certain roads that are comparable and compare the cost. The other option is for the town to have their own crew. Comparisons were made from the Town of Aurora to the Town of Rushford's shoulders were made. Ditching that is done has to be considered, for that tells you how much shouldering you can do.

Tom Jackson said he would like to see the levy stay the way it is, for a lot of road work does need to be done. Tom asked about Blue Belle. That road work was charged to the property owners and then the Town takes over maintenance of the road.

Dan Stokes agrees that the \$108,180 should be left in the levy.

Pat Schoonover said that the damage done on Senn road is from farm equipment. He feels that the person who is damaging the road should be responsible. Tom Egan said that you cannot stop farming. Farmers have the right to go on the roads. Pat Schoonover asked how about

other heavy equipment. If they tear up the road during building, they are responsible. This is stated in the Town's building permit. Some farmers who use the roads extensively will pay for damage that they done. Tom Egan said that he would like some work done on Senn road this year for the Farm Breakfast is scheduled on that road in 2018.

Gravel on roads was discussed. Also the need of a contingency fund.

With this budget, the mill rate is a little lower than last year - \$3.31/thousand vs \$3.37/thousand

Motion by Dan Stokes to close the presentation of the budget. Motion 2nd by Tom Jackson. Motion carried.

Tom Egan opened the Special Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Tom Jackson to adopt a Town tax levy of \$383,526, .003113 mill rate, to be paid in 2018, pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(a) of Wisconsin State Statutes. Motion 2nd by Pat Schoonover. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50