

Special Meeting of the Rushford Town Board Minutes
Thursday, November 9, 2017

The Special meeting of the board was called to order by Supervisor Schoonover. Roll call was taken with Jerry Schoonover, Pat Kafer, & Peggy Hendricks present. This meeting was called to order to discuss the increase in levy.

Hendricks explained that last year the Town electors agreed to raise the levy by \$108,000 to help pay for roads. At that time, when the town electors raised the levy, it was only for one year. The law has changed where if the electors approve an increase, the increase becomes a permanent part of the levy. If the Town no longer needs the levy, it should reflect on the statement of taxes – not on the levy worksheet the Department of Revenue requires the Town Clerk to fill out. She would instead, change it when she figures the Statement of Tax for the upcoming year. Hendricks would like to know how she should prepare the budget – with or without the levy increase. This meeting was posted in the paper and in all the Towns usual posting areas to get comments from the public.

Hendricks passed out the 3 year plan for Town Road improvement schedule. Schoonover mentioned that some of the work planned for 2017 was not completed this year. Hendricks stated that there is money left over in the budget because not all the road work was completed because of weather and timing, but in 2016 the budget for the roads was \$284,700. \$408,839 was spent for the work had to be done.

Hendricks has been working on the budget and according to the levy worksheet, the levy should be \$383,526. The mil rate would be \$3.11/thousand. Last year it was slightly higher. The mil rate went down because of our assessed value has gone up. In 2015 when the levy was not increase, the levy was \$2.42/thousand and last year was \$3.37/thousand. That is .95 difference and this year would be lower because of the assessed value.

Kafer said we still have many projects. Edgewater Ridge and River Road is a priority and the LRIP has been applied for that road. Usually this is not a large amount if the LRIP was granted and the Town has to pay all of the work and ½ of the hot mix, but it does help. Edgewater project is estimated to be at least \$110,000 and River Road would be about \$60,000. Then obviously there are other roads. The estimated cost for 2018 for the road plan is \$254,000 and that is not counting work that should be done on Senn road and crack sealing Rushford Ave (21 to Liberty School). The Town has not chipped and sealed for probably 4 to 5 years and they use to try to do 5 miles a year. When Kafer first got on, it was \$5500/mile and last time we did it, the cost was \$25,000/mile.

Pat Kafer made a motion to leave the levy as presented for now to use for the 2018 budget. It is not known if a motion has to be made. The meeting was a hearing to hear public opinion. There will be a budget hearing and meeting of electors on December 7th. The electors vote at that time to approve the levy. If they don't agree with the levy, they can vote down the levy. Hendricks just did not know how to create a 2018 budget. If it is voted down, an operating budget will be done and the lower levy will show on the Statement of Taxes which Hendricks prepares for the County and the Department of Revenue. The electors can vote on the levy, but the operating budget is only approved by the Town Board.

Hendricks stated that since she has been clerk, the levy has stayed at 0%, which is set by the State budget. The only increase of the levy is due to percentage of new construction. Years ago the levy increase was an average of 3 – 4%/year, but not since the current governor has been in office.

Jerry Schoonover 2nd the motion, but this money should be ear marked for roads.

Hendricks mentioned that road maintenance is very important, but there are also things that need to be done. When the budget is completed, road maintenance, snow removal and mowing/trimming is under Public Works and is treated as road maintenance under the Department of Revenue. Last year almost \$90,000 was paid for snow removal where there was \$50,000 broken down for snow removal in the budget. Kafer stated there is a lot of trimming to do. ***Motion carried.***

Kafer made motion to adjourn. Schoonover 2nd the motion. Motion carried.