

Public Budget Hearing
December 7, 2016

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

Peggy Hendricks presented the 2017 Budget. A power point presentation was presented along with handouts. Garbage cost on the tax bill will be \$169.83 where as it was \$176 in 2016.

Fred Kasten inquired if the Board could give a snapshot of the plans they have for road work in 2017. That will be discussed at the Special meeting of electors. Hendricks explained that the Board approved a resolution to propose to raise the levy so the Town would have money for road work in 2017. This will be discussed at the meeting.

With this budget, the mill rate stays the same as last year - \$2.42/thousand.

Tom Egan closed the meeting. Motion carried at 6:45.

Tom Egan opened the Special Meeting of Electors.

Peggy Hendricks read the Resolution to exceed the levy Limit. The resolution seeks to exceed the levy by 40% which would be \$108,180. Tom Egan explained that the Board wanted to propose this resolution for road work. The Boards goal in the past several years was to do 5 miles of road a year. With costs rising, levy's being at zero and transportation aid not raising; there is not enough money, even to keep up with the road patching. The Town did River road this year even though it all was not in the budget, for it was getting unsafe. To improve our roads, the Board feels we need to exceed the levy for extra funds. This would only be for this year. If it would be needed in future years, it would have to be presented and voted on once again by the electors.

Larry McDermitt asked the Board how much they thought they could achieve with the extra funds. Tom Egan hopes we can at least do paver patch instead of patching holes with tar. You would not be able to do the whole Town. Pat Kafer stated that the Town needs to chip and seal a lot of roads. They have been wedging and normally after wedging, chip and seal is done. The Town has not been doing this. That cost is about \$20,000/mile. Jerry Schoonover said if the Town did everything the County wanted us to do last year, it would have been over \$600,000. It was asked that maybe the Town should ask for all the money at once. The Town did not feel comfortable increasing the levy that high. Back in the day, it cost \$5,500/mile to chip and seal whereas it is \$20,000/mile now. Levy's have been frozen at zero for the past several years. Even though oil prices have gone down, it does not seem the asphalt prices are coming down. Pat Schoonover asked if there are special roads that they would try to get done. Tom Egan stated that Edgewater Ridge, some of the village streets, 2nd street to name a few. Every spring the Board takes a tour with the County to assess the roads, so it will be decided on after that is completed. The parking lot needs to be redone. Last years bid for that were \$17,000. Tom said that if the levy increase was approved, the monies would be earmarked for roads. Schoonover asked if we think we need that amount – if the Board could go to \$50,000 or less. Kafer said the

\$600,000 that Jerry was talking about was not even with the asphalt. There is still a lot of brushing to do. It was asked what would be the best thing to do with the roads. Tom said it would be best to grind it, redo it and then put on asphalt. Then in 2-3 years, you should seal it. The life expectancy would be about 10 – 15 years then. The Town has no base on their roads right now. Schoonover asked what our higher traveled roads were. Tom said Edgewater Ridge, the River Road, Delhi, Archery, Liberty, & Eureka Road. Pat Kafer mentioned that River Road looks nice now, but actually it is just a patch job. If you wanted to do it right, it should have been grinded and then layered over.

This money would be put in at the end of the year in the Operating Budget if it was approved for roads.

Motion by Dan Stokes, 2nd by Inert Larsen to raise the Towns levy by 40%. Motion approved by 14 – 0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55