

TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE, SAWYER CO., WI
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING 11-17-16

The Town of Spider Lake Budget Hearing was called to order by Town Chair Hucker at 6:00 PM. Present were Hucker Brandt, McGuiness, Cerman, Huot, Treasurer Overman, Clerk Ferda along with eleven additional electors in the audience for a total of eighteen electors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Hucker reported that the July storms impacted both the residents of the town and several of the town roads. The town will be recovering from the storms over the next two years both in terms of budget issues as well as road projects on Upper A, Pederson Road and Rock Lake Road.

The board is proposing limited increases in both the 2016 levy (payable 2017) and overall expenses for 2017. The State is allowing a .436 increase in the levy due to net new construction. This increase amounts to \$1,148.00 which is a 0.44% increase over 2015.

Hucker reviewed the 2017 budget. Lake Monitoring will increase slightly; however, the SCLA reimburses the town for the expenditures. The Fire Protection line item has been reduced from the 2016 budget and that is due to the fire department completing the purchase of new Motorola radios. The Road Construction & Maintenance line item will be increased in 2017. This line item was reduced in 2016 to transfer funds to the Road Capital Outlay line item to purchase new sanders for the two dump trucks and other equipment. The budgeted amount for 2017 of \$163,600.00 will be used to either rebuild and repave Town Hall Road or the first 1.5 miles of Murphy Boulevard. Administration, Wages & Benefits will be increased slightly and the road crew will be receiving a 2.5% increase in wages. A modest increase is proposed for the Fuel, Utilities and Supplies line item. Zoning will be increased slightly. There are no proposed increases in the compensation for any elected officials. The compensation will remain the same for elected officials as it has for the past six to seven years. One positive on the revenue side is the amount of funds received for Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes. It was substantially higher than expected. Even though the town has been told that this amount should be received going forward, the Federal PILT line item amount has been budgeted conservatively for one more year to see if that will be the case. Highway aids may be increased slightly when the next State budget is approved. Revenues have been fairly consistent over the past five to ten years. With the applied surplus, the proposed levy is \$264,477.00.

Hucker opened the hearing to the electors for questions or comments.

Jo Mazik questioned what the anticipated spend balance 2016 column on the disbursement side of the budget meant. Hucker explained that because the budget must be compiled after the October bills and payrolls are paid, this column represents what funds are needed for the balance of 2016. She also questioned what line item in the budget was used to pay the legal fees for the Cook matter. Hucker advised most of the cost came from the legal line item. Case Mazik asked how the board could justify no raises except for the road crew for the past six and one half years. Hucker stated that there are proposed increases for the dump and the cleaning/maintenance person at the town hall. Only elected officials will receive no increase. Case Mazik stated that he is talking about increases for the elected officials and that six years is a long time not to receive a raise. Ferda presented information that she gathered within the last week regarding what some other

towns are paying and that they receive raises on a regular basis. Hucker stated that he had requested that the clerk and treasurer propose any increases at the budget meeting, even though he would not support it. He also noted that this matter should have been brought up at the budget meeting. Hucker pointed out that he is only one member on the board. He said that he has a problem requesting additional pay as elected officials. He also stated that if the electors felt differently, they had the choice to raise or decrease the salaries.

Hucker stated he did not appreciate the suggestion that somehow he has stood as a barrier against this but has made it clear to everyone for the last six years at the budget meetings that he would not support any increases for elected officials when residents were being asked to pay more in taxes. Further discussion was held by the electors and the board. Hucker advised that compensation matter could be dealt with during the special electors meeting.

There were no further questions or comments from the electors present at the hearing.

The public hearing was closed at 6:27 PM.

Christine Ferda
Clerk