

## **NOVEMBER 12, 2024 BUDGET HEARING-PUBLIC HEARING**

The public hearing for the proposed 2025 budget was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Cedar Lake Town Hall in Mikana. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees included Ken Leners, Chairman; Kory Weiss and Mary Hele, Supervisors; Maryhelen Drew, Clerk and Treasurer; and Gladys Roux. Additionally, 31 other individuals were present.

Ken read instructions from the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) regarding the meetings. The first meeting involved presenting the 2025 budget, the second meeting aimed to approve the total town levy, and the third meeting allowed the Town Board to accept the levy approved by the electors.

Ken reviewed capital improvement plans, including future road projects and equipment purchases. Kory provided input on equipment purchases.

Ken then went through the 2025 budget expenditures line by line, inviting questions. J. Mutcher inquired why the Treasurer's amount had decreased. It was clarified that the Treasurer's salary is separate from supplies for that position. Kory explained the road projects planned for 2025 and suggested completing all plans for the town hall as reflected in the increased budget.

Ken discussed revenue items, noting that personal property tax had been removed from the rolls, and the town would receive funds from the state to offset this loss.

Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kory asked if public comments would be allowed in the next meeting, to which Ken confirmed. Kory seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted: Ken - yes; Kory - yes; Mary - yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

Ken opened the second meeting, explaining that there would be time limits for discussion. Louie Okey moved to limit comments to three minutes per person and to vote by a show of hands. Don Brunclik seconded the motion. All approved.

The maximum levy for 2025, as determined by the levy limit worksheet, was \$556,578.

Discussion followed regarding salaries. Tony Wolff expressed concern that low pay for the Clerk might deter applicants from running for that position. Kory noted that changes could only be made line by line, without altering the bottom line of the budget. Gladys stated that Board salary increases required approval from the electors. Ken added that, per WTA attorney Carol Noracki, salaries could not be discussed as the topic was not included in the meeting notice.

Tony addressed that the Clerk position was assigned a Deputy Clerk by the board a few years back instead of increasing the clerk's salary. Consequently, a \$10,000 budget line item for a

deputy clerk was established. He explained that if the board intended to cut that position from the budget, the \$10,000 should be added to the Clerk's salary.

Comparisons with other municipalities' salaries were shared. It was noted that future boards could amend salaries as needed.

Don Brunclik moved to approve the levy as presented. Grace Reisdorf seconded. Pudge Kohel expressed concerns about attracting quality candidates due to high taxes and low public servant pay.

Ken called for a vote on the levy. Six opposed, 28 supported, and two abstained. The motion to approve the levy of \$556,578 carried.

Kathy Mintari moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Hele. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

## **TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

Ken called the special Town Board meeting to order. Ken moved to accept the budget and levy as approved by the electors. Kory seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Ken - yes; Kory - yes; Mary - yes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

## **MONTHLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

The monthly Town Board meeting was called to order immediately following the budget meetings.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were read, moved for approval by Kory, and seconded by Mary.

### **Public Input**

Liz Drew clarified that the October 15 meeting was a budget workshop, while the budget hearing and approval occurred on November 12. Lois Gabriel mentioned that Mosaic had begun laying cable on her road.

### **Financial Report**

Gladys presented the financial report, noting that Clerk, Treasurer, and bank statements matched. Kory inquired about policies for town-held funds. Gladys stated the town could maintain a 16% fund balance and a 20% rainy day fund, recommending these be established by April 2025.

## Road Activities

Kory reported that all three trucks were repaired and ready for winter. Mary received a call about a tree hanging over a roadside. It was clarified that trees are only removed once they fall onto the road.

## BFCESD

Don Brunclik announced an upcoming fire station meeting to discuss ambulance service mapping and equipment updates.

## Old Business

- Kory discussed a driveway proposal for the fireworks committee. Gladys advised against town funding, suggesting community involvement for materials and labor.
- Kory addressed the abandonment of an easement near Waldo Carlson Park. Due to a clerical error in the lot description, legal counsel and DNR involvement were required.

## Correspondence

- Ken received a non-compliance notice from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue regarding assessment levels, leading to plans for a town-wide re-evaluation.
- Kory mentioned letters being prepared to remove personal property from town land. He also discussed private road construction in a development, which will transition to public maintenance following blacktopping in the spring.

Gladys mentioned she had received her tax bond application for tax seasons and sent both tax letters to the printers to be included in the tax statements. Both of these letters will appear on the website.

## Other Business

- Mary shared a seasonal report from Will Bowe, Buckthorn Supervisor, and noted that Mosaic representative Deanna Westphal would attend the December meeting.
- Maryhelen reported receiving thank-you notes and updates regarding tax preparations.
- Kory mentioned handling public records requests regarding voter registrations on election day.

Ken moved to pay the bills and adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23. P.M.