

Town of La Pointe
Special Town Board Meeting
2016 Budget Workshop
Tuesday, October 20th, 2015
5:00 pm at the Town Hall
Approved Minutes

Present: Jim Patterson, Mike Anderson, John Carlson, Michael Childers, Mike Starck
Staff present: Lisa Potswald, Cindy Dalzell, William Defoe, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne
Public Present: Glenn Carlson

1. Call to order: at 5:00pm

2. Budget Workshops:

Interim Town Administrator Lisa Potswald and Administrative Assistant Barb Nelson went over some budget process items as well as the overview of the whole budget. Currently, with all of the budget requests from all of the departments, there is a \$527,261 difference (deficit) between revenues and expenditures that will need to balance prior to final approval. B. Nelson also went over some scenarios on what the Town of La Pointe's share of the tax levy would look like depending on different budget outcomes. It was noted that the proposed expenditures are fairly similar to last years, but there is a big difference in the revenues due to the payment of the Big Bay Town Park grants paid in 2015 totaling around \$390,000. The Capital Equipment Plan is also not reflected in the budget, but the total of all equipment expenses in 2016 totals around \$845,000. It was described as playing catch up from the last 15 years.

B. Ambulance: Ambulance Director C. Dalzell budgeted as though there would be three new EMTs starting in June of 2016, but that number has been changed to only one, with another individual who is licensed in Minnesota who may join the service. Because of this change, her proposed \$90,000 in wages can be reduced to \$85,000, and the associated insurances, and FICA etc. can also be reduced. Discussion on some new equipment purchases as well as training refreshers that will occur in 2016 that adds to the budget. C. Dalzell also noted that she would like an office space with a desk, a locked file cabinet, and possibly a computer. Questions were raised on why it is showing \$30,000 revenue for the raffle, when it is split between fire and ambulance (it goes every other year to fire and ambulance).

A. Law Enforcement: Presented by Police Chief William Defoe. Discussion on staffing, the possibility of a full time officer retiring soon, the need for good, qualified part time officers but how they are hard to come by (who will work here and spend the night without the ability to get back home after a shift). Chief Defoe would like to hire another full time officer for planning ahead and preparing for a retirement, otherwise would like to hire a part time officer at a higher rate so it is more attractive to possible applicants. The department has a lot of overtime hours, questions arose on how to get them down. Other discussion on funding from the County, they have proposed to provide the same amount as the last three years (\$124,500) and not the 50% that is in the agreement. The \$124,500 would only be about 38% of budget. Larger discussion on

County agreements and reimbursements will be on the agenda for Thursday 10-22-15 budget meeting.

C. Fire Department: No representative from the Fire Department present. Nothing discussed at this time.

3. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, M. Childers/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk.

Approved as submitted, October 27, 2015. M. Montagne