

Town of La Pointe
Special Town Board Meeting
2016 Budget Workshop
Thursday, October 29th, 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, Rick Reichkitzer, Tim Eldred, Barb Nelson, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne
Public Present: Glenn Carlson

1. Call to order: at 5:06pm

2. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments:

B. Fire Department: Fire Chief Rick Reichkitzer and officer Tim Eldred were present to present the proposed 2016 budget to the Board. Discussion included: compensation for the department members is up because the past years they have under budgeted, ‘jaws of life’ need to be added to the capital equipment plan, length of service plan included in budget, increases in wages were initially requested for Chief and officers and fire fighters for meeting attendance, but are now requesting that they stay the same as 2015. Wage increases requested for Lead Engineer (from \$180/month to \$200) and Commercial fire inspectors, from four payments of \$350 to 6 payments of \$400. The lead engineer is above and beyond what mechanic A. Hage does.

A. General Government: Administrative Assistant Barb Nelson present to go over proposed budget. Discussion began with the levy, which is lower than the past few years. The Town’s people can set the levy higher if they so choose because La Pointe is a town with less than 2500 residents. The current proposed budgets (all departments) have a deficit of around \$500,000, discussion on possible solutions to cover expenditures, including increasing debt by borrowing, or increasing the requested levy (as well as reducing budgets). If no new debt is taken on, the Town will have everything paid off by 2021. Changes to general government in 2016 include an unknown amount of legal fees, 2015 went way over budget, so budgeting \$25,000 for 2016. Wages for B. Nelson and K. Erickson are requested as only a slight increase, while other departments keep going up. An automated phone system will hopefully be purchased and installed at Town Hall in 2015. Other things discussed and to be considered include the removal of the police panel and rescinding the resolution for it, the possibility of changing to a two year budget cycle, having consistent janitorial services for all Town buildings, and overall building maintenance of all Town buildings. It was also discussed that the Town receives some money through the Expenditure Restraint Program (ERPS) by keeping expenditures level with previous years. The amount rewarded for 2016 will be just over \$17,000.

C. Follow up from previous workshops: Discussion on the process the Town Board would like for ‘round two’ of the budget with considerations for what the board wants to do with pay raises, and how to reduce requested expenditures. It was decided to have each department head go over original proposed budget to make their own adjustments and get them to B. Nelson

to compile and create new department worksheets to have for the next meeting, as well as a compiled sheet to show how it all comes together and what the deficit will be after changes made.

3. Schedule Budget Meetings: Meeting to be on Thursday November 5, 2015 at 5:00pm. Supervisor M. Anderson requested that B. Nelson be present at the public hearing and Town Meeting in December to assist in answering questions.

4. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, M. Childers/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. Adjourned at 6:58pm.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk.

Approved as submitted, November 10, 2015, M. Montagne.