

Town of La Pointe
Special Town Board Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2015
5:00 pm at Town Hall
Approved Minutes

Present: Jim Patterson, Mike Anderson, John Carlson, Michael Childers.
Mike Starck absent.

Staff present: Lisa Potswald, Barb Nelson, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne

1. Call to order: at 5:00pm

2. New Phone System:

Interim Town Administrator Lisa Potswald looked into options for automated phone systems. Norvado has what we need and it fits into the budget for 2015 (\$8500 budgeted). The new phone system will be for Town Hall and the SRE/ Shop building with the possibility of adding other Town buildings in the future. Questions arose on the guarantee of service with the new voice over internet system. L. Potswald to look into clarifying the redundancy package and the item will be on the Regular Town Board Meeting agenda for 11/10/15.

3. Police Department: Hire of Part Time Employees:

Chief W. Defoe requested the hire of a new part time officer as previous officers have found other jobs, and one needs time off for medical purposes. Chief Defoe believes it is difficult to attract quality applicants with the current offered wage and is requesting the new hire to be hired at \$20.00/ hour. Discussion on the small difference between the new hire wage request and Officer Carpenter's wage, who has been on the Department for over 13 years.

Motion to hire Thomas Rossberger Jr at \$19.00/ hour provided he meets all of the WI State requirements. He will have a 90 day review and a one year probationary period. J. Carlson/ M. Childers, 4 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Further discussion on whether to have all new part time hires be at \$19.00.

Motion to authorize Chief W. Defoe to hire other qualified officers who meet state requirements at \$19.00/ hour with a 90 day review and a one year probationary period, M. Anderson/ M. Childers, 4 Ayes, Motion Carried.

The Board then discussed what to do about the current part time employees who are only making \$17.00/ hour. The board would like to discuss the Police Department wages at the next regular Town Board meeting with Chief Defoe present for the discussion.

4. Review and Discussion; End of 2015 Budget and 2016 Budget:

Following the budget workshops with the department heads, the changes discussed were compiled and added to each department worksheet. Administrative Assistant B. Nelson also compiled the changes into summary documents and gave a few examples of what the Tax Levy would look like depending on some options. Prior to the budget workshops there was a deficit of around \$530,000, now there is only a deficit of around \$430,000 which means expenditures exceed revenues by that amount. Supervisor Childers brings up discussion on the potential decrease in the deficit of around \$140,000 by not transferring 2015 budgeted funds into

designated funds (\$65,500), and by 'closing out' some designated funds (\$77,371) and applying that money to the tax levy and checkbook balance. M. Childers also brings up that it may be a good option to finance the capital equipment purchases because the Town has been covering operating expenses by grants and loans, when it may make more sense to cover projects and equipment purchases by loans. There are two trucks that need to be purchased in 2016 as well as redoing the EMS/ Fire Hall roof, totaling around \$180,000 that can be financed and not added to the tax levy this year. This is way of lessening available funds in designated accounts and financing capital equipment and capital projects is a new and different approach that the Town hasn't done before.

Discussion on looking into Premier Resort Tax and what it would mean for the Town of La Pointe in the future.

Revenue sources from the State are decreasing.

Discussion on wages: many department heads requested anywhere from no wage increase to 11% or more for themselves or their employees. The Board decided to go with a 1% increase across the board for all employees except for the Police Department because of information they found after a wage study of surrounding areas.

The Fire department has been getting paid at the end of each year, but L. Potswald is requesting changing it to October 1st so that it is better known what needs to be in the budget each year.

Also discussed looking into doing a two or three year budget in the future, to be discussed more at a Town Board planning workshop.

Changes made at this point in the budget include not transferring 'left over' funds from 2015 into designated funds for 2016, but putting that sum towards the general fund (\$65,500); emptying various designated funds to be used for operating costs/ general fund (\$77,371), shifting to a capital plan with financing equipment purchases and doing capital improvement projects like the EMS/ Fire Hall roof; and providing a 1% wage increase across the board except for the police department. These items to be put into the budget and discussed further at the next budget meeting.

5. Schedule Budget Meetings: Final budget needs to be posted on November 20, final budget meeting to be on November 17, budget will be discussed at the regular meeting on November 10, and there will be a Special Town Board Meeting for budget discussion on November 11, 2015 at 5:00pm.

6. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn. M. Anderson/ J. Carlson, 4 Ayes, Motion Carried. Adjourned at 6:53pm.

Submitted by Town Clerk, Micaela Montagne.

Approved as submitted, November 24, 2015.