

Town of La Pointe
Special Town Board Meeting
2015 Budget Workshop
Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014
5:00 pm at the Town Hall
Approved Minutes

Present: Greg Nelson (at 5:30), Michael Childers, Marty Curry, Jim Patterson, Ham Ross (left early)

Others present: Pete Clark, Kristian Larsen (at 5:20), Michael Dalzell (5:27), Adam Hage (5:35), Cindy Dalzell (at 6:10)

Motion to nominate Ham Ross as acting Chairman in the absence of Greg Nelson, M. Curry/ J. Patterson, 3 Ayes, H. Ross abstains, Motion Carried.

1. Call to order at 5:03pm

2. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments:

Motion to move to 2.C. Harbor/ Dock because no representation from Roads or Parks present yet, M. Curry/ J. Patterson, 4 Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. Harbor/ Dock: Presented by Pete Clark. Holding the transient dock in abeyance due to difficulty with acquiring the land needed where Main Street and Middle Road meet. The Harbor committee is interested in expanding the Town Dock as well a possible expansion of Joni's Beach dock. They would like to have \$75,000 for engineering and design of these plans. The committee currently has \$38,353 in their designated fund. The dock extension will only go if grants come through.

D. Winter Transportation: The three entities that make up winter transportation (Town of La Pointe, Madeline Island Ferry Line, and School District of Bayfield) will be each putting \$10,000 per year toward operating, insurance, and startup costs instead of the \$7,000 in the past. Any monies left over in the fund at the end of the seasons will remain in the fund instead of being reimbursed back due to larger costs projected for the 2016 or 2017 budget (for repairs or new Windsled).

Greg Nelson enters at 5:30. Motion to have Greg Nelson take over as chair of the meeting from here on out, M. Curry/ J. Patterson, 4 Ayes, Motion Carried.

A. Roads: Presented by Foreman Kristian Larsen. Detailed discussion with breakdowns of line items. Highlights include possible retirement and replacement for E. Erickson which would change wages and possible change to insurance depending on who was hired. Ice Road expenditures are so dependent on the season, it is hard to budget for. There was an extra \$1000 in the budget due to a new computer being budgeted twice. Proposed new equipment and equipment repairs totaling over \$60,000. \$26,000 for calcium chloride/ dust abatement in budget, but no crack sealing scheduled for 2015. New lights requested for Griggs approach and break

wall. Discussion on whether to buy new vehicles and equipment versus leasing. Mechanic A. Hage spoke on advantages and disadvantages of both.

2014 budget for highway expenditures is over. There may need to be a Special Town Meeting for the Townspeople to approve an increase. Budget is over because of changes in Foreman and Mechanic, increase in health insurances, crack sealing, and a long 2014 Ice Road season.

A couple of questions arose on County H expenditures and reimbursement revenues (they equal out in the end). Total 2015 budget proposal/ request is about \$66,000 more than 2014 approved budget.

H. Ross exits at 7:00pm

B. Parks & Recreation: Also presented by Foreman Kristian Larsen. Changes on the worksheets include that Big Bay Town Park has been split, and now has its own line items so tracking of Park expenses can be done. Discussion included possibility of a new website for the Town Park, paying for an IT person, new phone at the Park, as well as possible increases in staff and hosts at the Park. Pump out budget increased by \$3000 for 2015 due to increase in activity with toilets and showers. For Recreation K. Larsen has budgeted more hours for running the Rec Center into the fall on the weekends. Possibility of outreach to Northland College students for camp hosts and Rec Center (outdoor education credits/ internship).

E. Airport: Presented by Airport Manager Michael Dalzell. Revenues exceed expenditures, so the airport pays for itself. Discussion included that \$20,000 was taken from Airport designated fund in 2014 for general use, and M. Dalzell/ Airport will need it in the future for the perimeter fence. Other discussion on the new AWOS system, and some issues with clearing the spot for the tower because of wetlands. The project may not get done this year. And the perimeter fence has been on the to-do list for six years, it will have to be an 8 foot fence, with hopes that it will keep the deer out.

F. Ambulance: Presented by Ambulance Director Cindy Dalzell. 2015 budget request is less than 2014 due to less calls, and less wages because lost a few EMTs. Hopefully there will be two new students going to EMT school next year.

3. Adjourn at 8:07pm.

Submitted by Town Clerk, Micaela Montagne

Approved as submitted, Regular Town Board Meeting November 11, 2014. MM.