

**TOWN OF LAPOINTE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING:**  
**2014 BUDGET**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013**  
**5:00 PM AT TOWN HALL**  
**Minutes**

The list of those in attendance is attached (Jim Patterson was present but did not sign in)

**I. Call to Order@ 5:00pm**

Motion to nominate Ham Ross as acting Chairman in the absence of Greg Nelson. MC/ JP 3A  
Motion Carried.

**II. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to discuss the 2014 proposed budget.**

Ham Ross states the purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the 2014 Budget, and calls Administrator Pete Clark to the table to present the budget.

Pete Clark: believes there is no room for optimism, and thus presents a tight budget. The budget reflects very few Capital Projects, meets the Levy Limit, all of the essential services are maintained, but there is not much 'fluff' anywhere. Revenue is down 17.5% from 2013, thus expenditures could not be great.

Lots of discussion on Library budget. Some details are as follows:

-Ludlow North: speaking for Library. The Town took away &8250 from the Library's budget request. He considers the Library an important part of the infrastructure of the community. If that money is taken away, it will take away from projects, programs, and activities.

-Connie Ross: stated that the Town wants the Library to pay for things from its designated funds. She points out that in 2013 the Library spent \$38,000 of their designated funds, and that they agrees to spend \$11,000 on a new roof (half the cost, the other half paid for by Town budget). She believes the Town would be doing a disservice to the community by not providing the money requested.

-Questions arose on if the Library roof was in the budget twice. Yes, it is listed more than once, but only totaled once.

-Jim Patterson clarifies that what the library proposed budget for Operating Expenses was reduced but then the Board added back \$6,000. Micaela Montagne also clarifies that the amount of 8250 is what will be given, not what is taken out.

-Marty Curry & Nick Nelson explains that the library as well as all other departments will have to hold on for the year with a little less than what they requested.

-Other points brought up included wage increases, and clarification on the Town approving a 'lump sum' to the Library, then it is up to them to spend it how they want. It was pointed out that though the library may not be getting what it requested, the overall amount received is up from 2013.

Mary Ross asks about the positive checkbook balance at the end of 2013, and why some of those funds were not used to lower the levy. P. Clark explains that most of the funds will be used to pay for things in January prior to receiving revenue funds.

Michael Childers asks if the Town's debt is growing in 2014 based on figures of budget print outs. P. Clark Clarifies that it is not, but there was slight increase last year due to the Grigg's Approach project.

Burke Henry questions what is happening in regards to Bilingual Signage. It was clarified that the money set aside for the signage will hopefully not be spent as the Town is looking into grant options available.

Other topics of conversation included the decrease in money from Ashland County, money in alternative energy and harbor for projects that will only happen if grants come it, an increase in campground fees to match those in the region, fire wage reduction in reflection to the new retirement program, and increases in shelter rental fees.

**III. Adjourn** at 6:07pm. NN/ MC 4A Motion Carried.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk

Unanimous Consent to place on file 12-10-13, Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk.