

Town of La Pointe
Special Town Board Meeting

Monday November 11th, 2013

5:00 pm at the Town Hall

Approved as submitted 11-26-13

Present: Nick Nelson, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Marty Curry

Staff Present: Pete Clark, Barb Nelson

Public Present: Mike Starck, Dave Thomas

1. Call to order @5:10pm

2. Review and Discussion; End of 2013 Budget and 2014 Budget

Town Administrator Pete Clark compiled a list of budget adjustments to bring 2014 expenditures closer to the revenues. His adjustments include: not adding proposed money to the following designated funds; \$50,000 to highway equipment, \$20,000 to airport improvement (would have gone towards a perimeter fence which can still move forward with the assistance of grants), \$20,000 to Capital Improvement, and \$17,500 into the Fire Department truck fund.

Administrator Clark also proposed to reduce the following proposed budget items (please note, for most of these, it does not zero out the item, just reduces the total being added in 2014):

\$1000 from Shop Materials, \$3200 from bridges and culverts, \$5000 from Highway equipment repairs (parts), \$2500 from Highway equipment repairs (subs), \$5000 from Ice Road Materials, \$10,000 from Highway/ Street Maintenance (Norvado and White Construction will be contributing), \$2000 from docks and harbor maintenance, \$1500 from MRF compactor repairs, \$1000 from MRF recycling equipment maintenance (bobcat), \$2500 from MRF solid waste wages (internally adjusting the schedule throughout the year so can fit overtime pay for holidays in to budget), \$1000 from Park Beautification, \$1000 from Park reservation fees, \$500 from Celebrations, \$14,000 from Zoning and Planning wages (due to not hiring a Zoning Administrator Assistant), \$3000 from Ashland County POWTS, \$29,390 from Zoning Capital for Reflectivity new fire number signs (the County (Emergency Management) is purchasing signs for other municipalities, and Administrator Clark is hoping they will do so for ours also), \$6000 from Library Operations (Lots of discussion on this matter: Administrator Clark had it at \$12,000 but Town Board did not want to take that much as the Library does act as a community center. Town Board is comfortable reducing it by some because the Library has outstanding designated funds as well as alternate forms of revenues. They want to try it and see how it goes for the year, they can revisit the amount budgeted for the Library next year), \$1200 from Fire Chief Wages (Chief will still be getting a \$200/ month raise), \$2500 from Site Investigation and Architecture (for the expansion for the EMS building. Discussion included playing with the idea of instead of adding on to the existing building, to add a satellite building out toward Big Bay. This will be discussed in much more detail in the future), \$1000 from Ice Rescue expenses, \$50,000 from EMS building Roof (delay new roof project until 2015, but still add \$20,000 into the fund this year to offset budget next year. This 20,000 contribution was concluded after Board input), and \$5000 from General Government, Legal (Mike Starck commented that Ashland County only budgeted \$7500 total and the Town of La Pointe has \$15,000 in proposed budget. By removing the \$5000, there will still be \$10,000 remaining in the fund).

Administrator Clark also has proposed an increase on many of the fees to bring in more revenue.

Other areas of discussion include:

G. Nelson questions what is being done with replacing the Town Foreman, and that it is not included in the proposed budget, especially if the new hire will take health insurance. Town Board decides to budget \$10,000 in case the new foreman does take health insurance.

N. Nelson would like to see a line item in the budget for bilingual signage. Town Board agreed to put \$5000 in for signs.

Questions regarding new playground, Administrator Clark clarified that \$10,000 will be transferred from the Rec Center Building Capital for a new playground.

M. Curry is interested in if the room accommodations tax can go to 501c3's other than the Chamber of Commerce. He wonders if the lump sum could be split up and not just go to the Chamber, possibly even getting Request for Proposals that would include the business' request as well as a description of how they would use the money. J. Patterson says that if it is not in a company's mission statement to promote tourism, than they would not be able to receive any money. Other concerns on the issue include 501c3's changing just to get the money, and if it is even something that can be changed. The Board must check statutes and ordinances.

B. Nelson asked the Board what they would like to do about wages, do a straight across the board percentage raise with cost of living, or case by case (as proposed). Board thought to leave it as proposed.

Last item discussed was the purchase of the stockpiled gravel at the airport and possible purchase by the Town. There is not a line item in the budget. G. Nelson thinks to bring it up at the public hearing and see what the Townspeople have to say, as it will be a large amount of money.

3. Schedule Budget Meeting

Wednesday November 13, 5:00pm

4. Adjourn at 7:05pm HR/ NN 5A Motion Carried.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted 11-26-13. Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk