

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
2012 BUDGET
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011
AT 3:30 PM AT TOWN HALL**

I. Call to order at 3:38 PM by Ham Ross who immediately moves to name Beth Fischlowitz as acting Chair.

Present: Beth Fischlowitz, Jim Patterson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen
Dept. Head present: Barb Nelson

Motion to name Beth Fischlowitz as Acting Chair HR/JP 3A 1 Ab [BF] MC

II. Discussion, Tweaking & Finalizing the 2012 Budget

Beth Fischlowitz asked Barb Nelson to please present the last minute requests:

A. Ted Pallas has asked for \$15 an hour for Carey Baxter. This would increase the Materials Recovery Facility by \$400. B. Fischlowitz says that she knows that Ted Pallas would really like to give Carey \$15.25 an hours. Ham Ross states that in view of the fact that Carey Baxter never had a 90-day review, this would be an acceptable increase.

Motion to budget \$15.25 an hour for Carey Baxter HR/JP 4A MC

B. The Ambulance Service has requested that money be budgeted to give their officers each \$200 a month, resulting in a \$600 total for Ambulance Service Officers. This was tabled until the end of the meeting.

C. Treasurer's Memorandum dated 11/2/11 in which she presented various financing options per the Town Board request [Special Town Board Meeting 11/2/11] to finance the Roads department request for \$250,000 for chip/crack sealing.

Motion to adopt Option #2 [regarding the current debt]: \$1,784,363 loan for seven years at 3.65% with payments of \$289,236 annually and a total of interest paid of \$428,801 and when the chip sealing project begins to review with a view to adopting Option #3: \$2,034,363 [an additional \$250,000] for seven years at 3.65% with annual payments totaling \$329,760 and a total of interest paid of \$461,875.

JP/HR 4A MC

D. Two Library requests: \$9000 for a capital outlay project to be included in the Town's budget and increased labor hours for the Library Director [35 hours, which will make her a full-time employee].

Motion to remove \$9000 from the Library budget request. HR/JP 4A MC Clerk is directed to write the Library a letter stating that it is the intent of the Board that the Library find other funding for this project.

Much discussion followed regarding the labor hours request: [Greg Nelson arrived at 4:17 PM]
Barb Nelson stated that the Library Director has stated that she does not want Health Benefits from the Town.

Motion to return the Chair to Greg Nelson. HR/LW 4A MC

Clerk is directed to write the Ambulance Service a letter stating that their request came in too late to be considered for the 2012 budget.

Larry Whalen stated that he wants more specific details regarding the reason for the increased labor hours for the Library. Greg Nelson stated that he is thinking of the Public Hearing [Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2011, regarding the 2012 Budget] and how the Town Board will explain to the public this budget increase. Jim Patterson stated that it is not the Town Board's intent to micro-manage the Library. Beth Fischlowitz suggested leaving the numbers alone and letting the public ask the questions.

Discussion then turned to the fund balance applied. [Clerk's note: this is the amount that is left in the checking and cash accounts at the end of the year.]

Barb Nelson stated that she is estimating this amount to be \$282,801. Discussion followed regarding how much to bring forward in the checking account for the year 2012 and how much to apply to the levy.

Barb Nelson and Greg Nelson agreed that the contingency fund is usually set at \$20,000. Beth Fischlowitz pointed out that, considering the changes that have been made to the proposed budget, if the amount that the budget is currently over the levy limit by \$20,710, then the overage may be covered.

Jim Patterson suggested that a healthy amount has been budgeted for the Town Administrator position and that this could be used to cushion the overage.

All agreed that the next task is balancing the fund balance applied, the levy limit and the checking account. Greg Nelson asked if the levy limit is calculated based on an average over several years.

Barb Nelson stated that the current levy is 1% above last year's. Beth Fischlowitz asked what it would take to make it even with last year's. Barb Nelson responded: \$16,000 to \$17,000 out of the checking account.

Jim Patterson stated that he has heard concerns from the public: one concern is that the Big Bay Town Park project will be expensive for tax payers.

[Clerk's note: excerpt from Special Town Board Meeting 6/10/11 RE: Conditional Use Permit for Big Bay Town Park

Motion to accept the CUP with modifications as follows:

- 1. Motion to run a campground & park that does not exceed the footprint and scope of the plan dated February 2, 2011. GN/JP 3A 2 No's [HR, LW] MC*
- 2. Motion to finance the project with the largest percentage of funding to come from funding sources other than the Town tax levy. BF/GN 5A MC*

Another concern seems to be the hiring of a Town Administrator. He stated that it would help a great deal at the Public Hearing (12/5/11) if the levy were going down.

Larry Whalen leaves at 4:56 PM

The Clerk is directed to post for a Special Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

III. Sale of Town Code Copies to Public

Motion to authorize the Town Hall staff to sell compact disc copies of the Town's Code of Ordinances to the public for \$25 plus tax. BF/HR 4A MC

IV. Adjournment at 5:00 PM

Approved as submitted on 11/22/11
Patty Hobin, Town Clerk