

PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. – Wascott Town Hall

Public Hearing

- 1) Call to Order - Chair Jan Jenson called the Public Hearing to order at 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Purpose of Hearing - The Public Hearing is designated for public comments on the 2021 proposed budget. The Public Hearing does not conclude action or decide any outcome; that remains for the relevant body to do at a later time. Motions and voting are out of order.
- 3) Presentation of the Town Board's proposed 2021 Budget and Recommended 2020 Town Tax Levy - Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson presented the 2021 Proposed Budget on behalf of the Board highlighting the following –
Revenues - Town tax levy increased from \$718,899 to \$727,069; State Highway Aids remained the same at \$529,621; State Shared revenues at \$14,961; no longer apply for the Brush Collection Site Grants; no cash flows used to balance the budget.
Expenditures - General Government increased due to the hiring of a highway employee from PT to FT which increased highway employee's health care benefits and the health savings account; Public Safety - EMS realized an increase due to hiring additional staff and providing health insurance and WRS benefits; Public Works remained stable; no new debt incurred.
The **2021 Budget is \$1,461,551** with a **Town Tax Levy of \$727,069** - which is the allowable limit.
The year-end 2020 fund balance is estimated at \$539,328. Outstanding debt at year's end is at \$370,045.
- 4) Public Comments on the Proposed 2020 Budget – As the Clerk presented the budget, the public was encouraged to ask questions during the presentation.
Bob Beglinger commended the Town Board for putting a balanced budget together. Bob would like to see a 10-year equipment replacement plan. Also, would like to see a plan for road maintenance.
Jan Jenson commented it was decided no new equipment would be purchased this year due to the uncertainty of the financial markets due to Covid.
James Boughner commented he thought it good to have monies in cash reserves. If something does breakdown, there is the money to pay for it.
Jan Newsome - apparently the Board decided it was necessary to hire an additional highway employee for an increase of approximately \$20,000.
- 5) Adjournment of Public Hearing – Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. and the Special Town Meeting was called to order.

Special Town Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jenson at 10:35 a.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Verification of qualified electors present at meeting – 7 resident voters

4. Verification of public notice and approval of agenda – **A Chuck Youngquist/Fred Atkinson motion to approve agenda; motion carried by a voice vote.** Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson verified there was proper public notice given.
5. Approve minutes of the Special Town Meeting of November 16, 2019 – **A Jan Newsome/Chuck Youngquist motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2019; motion carried by a voice vote.**
6. Review procedural rules for conduct of the Special Town Meeting - Chair Jenson reviewed the procedures of the Special Town Meeting commenting the Chair presides at the meeting and the town clerk serves as the clerk. The residents of the Town Meeting adopt the Town Tax Levy. However, the Town's budget is adopted by the Town Board.
7. Specific matters for discussion and possible action by the qualified electors present:
 - a) Approve Resolution 2020-10 - Authorize the Town Board to appropriate monies for certain conservation projects, civic donations, and cemetery improvements in the 2021 budget (Stat. 60.10(3)(b)) – **A Jan Jenson/James Boughner motion to approve the 2021 civic donations in the amount of \$8,800. If all donations are not allocated, those funds would remain in the town's cash reserves. Hand Vote: Yes, 7; No - 0; Abstain - 0; motion carried.**
 - b) Approve Resolution 2020-11 – Electors to Adopt the 2020 Town Tax Levy Collected in 2021 pursuant to Sec. 60.10(1)(a) of the WI Statutes – **A James Boughner/Jan Newsome motion approving the 2020 Town Tax Levy in the amount of \$727,069. Hand Vote: Yes - 7; No - 0; Abstain - 0; motion carried.**
8. **A Chuck Youngquist/Fred Atkinson motion to adjourn meeting at 11:24 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson
Clerk/Treasurer

Posted this 16th day of November 2020 at the Town Hall, Fire Department,
Stop-A-Sec, Backwood's Bar & Grill and the town's website – www.townofwascott.org