

Town of Dunn
Budget Hearing and Special Town Meeting
November 16, 2010

The budget hearing was called to order by Chair Ed Minihan at 7:02 PM.

Present: Ed Minihan, Town Chair, Stanley Solheim, Town Supervisor I, Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer.

Also present: 24 residents and staff Todd Klahn, Sara Swalheim, and Erica Schmitz.

Absent: Steve Greb, Town Supervisor II

The attached budget was available as a handout and was reviewed. The Clerk Treasurer pointed out the major variances from the previous year budget and the proposed levy increase of 2.46%. The increase in the general tax levy was \$71,400. Intergovernmental revenues are projected to be down by \$105,421. Overall revenue is projected to be down \$50,532. General Fund expenditures are projected to decrease by 34,122. Cuts include a 50% reduction in two part-time positions at the transfer site and over \$5,000 in savings on telephone services. A wage freeze for all categories of employees is reflected in the budget. Voluntary furloughs for employees for the purpose of reducing wage expenses is projected to reduce costs by \$2,000 in 2011. A sinking fund for future revaluation is established at \$80,000. Highway Foreman Todd Klahn answered questions about roadwork reconstruction plans and how roads are selected. It was noted that Orvold Park Road is in need of reconstruction to a similar degree as Wilnor, but Wilnor has more traffic, so it will be done first. Todd noted that 5 years ago materials for reconstruction one mile of road were about \$60,000 and now due to a competitive market for some of the components used in asphalt, the cost is about \$147,000. This increase has put a strain on our plan to reconstruct 2 miles of road per year. Ed Minihan provided comments on the process for Town residents to set the levy by vote at our Special Town Meeting. Following a question and answer period, the hearing was closed at 7:35 PM.

Special Town Meeting

This special town meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Minihan at 7:35 PM immediately following the budget hearing.

Item C considering the tax levy was moved forward on the agenda.

A. Motion: Jane Licht/Carol Heidenway to approve the 2010 tax levies as presented:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | \$991,400 | |
| Debt Service Fund | \$178,887 | |
| Rural Preservation Fund | <u>\$351,858</u> | |
| Total tax levy | \$1,522,145 | Carried unanimously. |

I. Introductions and Announcements Ed explained the purpose of the meeting.

II. Business

B. Motion: Mary Gross/Cal DeWitt to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on April 13, 2010 as prepared. Carried unanimously. (24 voters present)

- C. **Motion:** Vicki Wangerin/Tim Andrews to authorize the Town Board to execute a conservation easement on the Lalor Property in section 18 for \$152,200 and authorize the expenditure for an endowment of \$8,000 to the Natural Heritage Land Trust. A presentation was made by Land Use Manager, Erica Schmitz followed by a question and answer period. It was noted that the Lalor property was the top-ranking 2010 applicant, adds to a significant corridor of protected land including the Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area, and is a high priority because the family is selling the property. Cal DeWitt spoke in favor of the proposal and noted that the restored wetlands on the property connect to Murphy's Creek and in turn the Waubesa Wetlands. Carried unanimously.
- D. **Motion:** Tim Andrews/Eric Swenson to authorize the Town Board to execute a conservation easement on the Severson Property in section 28 for up to \$46,450 and authorize the expenditure for an endowment of \$8,000 to the Natural Heritage Land Trust. A presentation was made by Land Use Manager, Erica Schmitz followed by a question and answer period. It was noted that this property has extremely high agricultural and ecological values, is adjacent to the Hook Lake Bog State Natural Area, and State and Federal matching programs have each committed 50% funding of the easement. Cal DeWitt spoke in support of the acquisition, highlighting the unique nature and pristine quality of Hook Lake, which the proposed conservation easement would protect. Carried Unanimously.

This motion was further amended by Frank Paynter and seconded by Charlie Wangerin along with Tim Andrews and Eric Swenson to authorize an increased expenditure amount of up to 50% of the highest appraisal which is \$75,500 to be used in the event that the grant funds fall short of the funds needed for the transaction. The amendment was carried unanimously.

- E. **Motion:** Roz Gausman/Ray Potempa to approve the highway expenditures pursuant to Section 81.01(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes in the amount of \$230,000. Carried unanimously.
- F. **Motion:** Jane Licht/Charlie Wangerin to set compensation for Town Board members for the next term, April 2011-April 2013 by providing a \$25 per diem for each meeting they attend in addition to a continuation of the current salary rates. Discussion included review of a handout providing a survey of compensation rates from the Wisconsin Towns Association and current salary rates of \$4,791.77 per year for the position of Town Chair and \$3,594.10 per year for the positions of Supervisor I and Supervisor II. Carried unanimously.

No other items were brought forth for action.

- D. **Motion:** Frank Paynter/Beth Hastings to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Carried unanimously.

Submitted for approval by,
Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager