

Lynden Township, Stearns County
Budget & Levy Meeting / Annual Meeting Planning
January 26, 2022

Present: Supervisors Dave Johnson, Dennis Niemi, Treasurer Jean Schermer and Clerk Jenny Schmidt. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Documents for the Annual Meeting were distributed which included the proposed agenda, and a report on revenues, expenditures, the proposed budget, and the levy. Treasurer Schermer reviewed a detailed report of revenues and expenditures from 2017 through 2021, and projected revenues and expenditures through 2023. Schermer noted known 2022 and 2023 expenditures and presented a draft 2023 budget. Schermer will also prepare a draft 2021 Treasurer's Report which will be provided to residents at the March 8th annual meeting.

It was noted the report reflects the 2023 Levy decrease of \$37,837 (-7.6%) below the 2022 Levy. After discussion of the proposed budget which included discussion on possible lower gas taxes due to the continued Pandemic, Road and Bridge estimates, fire cost pending, Johnson made a motion to consider budget prep from here forward should be based on a 6 month expenditure rather than a 5 month expenditure, seconded by Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

Niemi proposes a Road and Bridge budget of \$433,500 and suggests a portion of the ARPA funds go toward tarring 200th Str and 6th Ave., as are now approved as an expenditure for those funds. Dates for dust control have already been set in June, with the intent that application rate will increase from 2/10 per gallon, 12 foot wide to 3/10 per gallon, 18 foot wide. Johnson requests traffic counters be placed once roads are clear. Suggested Fulton Circle be considered for tarring since it serves many more township residents. Plaggerman (via email) suggested the 2023 levy remain the same as the 2022 levy, or to keep our goal of a balance that covers 6 months of expenditures at the end of 2023. Based on the information and contracts we currently have, there should be no reason to continue the annual meeting to set the final levy. To incorporate the projected difference of \$27,850 in expenses versus revenues, Treasurer Schermer is to add that number to the general fund, which will bring the total combined levy to approximately what it was for 2022. Schermer will incorporate the items identified above and have a new proposed levy for the regular monthly meeting on February 7th. Johnson made a motion to continue discussions on Treasurer Schemer's proposed levy for 2023 at the next monthly meeting scheduled for February 7th, with the full board voting on a recommendation to the electorate at time.

The proposal as is:

Road and Bridge	\$385,883
General Government	\$ 99,643
Clearwater Fire	\$ 93,590 (Preliminary number)
Annandale Fire	\$ 13,323 (Preliminary number)

.TOTAL \$592,439

The proposed Annual Meeting agenda was discussed. Townships are facing an unusual circumstance due to the continued Pandemic. The Board chooses to hold the meeting in person, social distancing and face covering will be required, and the meeting will be streamed live, view only. No requests for a library donation were received to date. Johnson will provide the statutorily required language relating to donations if the request is received. After discussion, it was determined no refreshments will be served due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Treasurer Schermer will present the Treasurer's report. Niemi will present the road report. Supervisor Johnson will present the township update and will also present the proposed levy. Planning Administrator James Kantor will be asked to assist with the power point for the presentation.

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m., seconded by Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt
Lynden Township Clerk