

**Lynden Township, Stearns County
Budget & Levy Meeting / Annual Meeting Planning
January 24, 2023**

Present: Supervisors Dave Johnson, Dennis Niemi and Tom Plaggerman, Treasurer Jean Schermer and Clerk Jenny Schmidt. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:43 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 2018 through 2022, and projected revenues and expenditures through 2024. Schermer noted known 2023 and 2024 expenditures and presented a draft 2024 budget. Schermer will also prepare a draft 2022 Treasurer's Report which will be provided to residents at the March 14th annual meeting.

It was noted the report reflects the 2024 Levy increase of \$9737.00 (+1.6%) above the 2023 Levy. After discussion of the proposed budget which included discussion on gas taxes remaining constant, Road and Bridge estimates, fire cost pending, pay scale adjustments, and ARPA Funds, the Board continues to consider budget prep be based on a 6 month expenditure rather than a 5 month expenditure, which is consistent with previous years direction. ARPA Funds must be obligated by contract no later than 12-31-2024 and paid out by 12-31-2026.

Niemi proposes a Road and Bridge budget of \$450,000. The tarring 200th Str and 6th Ave. continues as a pending project as we do not yet have a 5 year road plan, along with proposing the chip coating and fog sealing of 200th Str E from Co Rd 44 to 21st Ave, 21st Ave to 222nd Str, 222nd Str to dead end, Edison Cir, and 21st Ave to Co Rd 145. Dust control for all roads with an application of 12 foot wide on most roads, and 18 foot wide on high traffic roads. Is Fulton Circle being considered for tarring since it serves many more township residents? Gravel will be applied to the South 1/3 of the Township. Based on the information and contracts we currently have, there should be no reason to continue the annual meeting to set the final levy. The general fund may need to adjusted dependent upon pay scale adjustments. Schermer will incorporate the items identified above and have a new proposed levy for the regular monthly meeting on February 6th. Continued discussions on Treasurer Schemer's proposed levy for 2024 will be at the next monthly meeting scheduled for February 6th, with the full board voting on a recommendation to the electorate at time.

The preliminary proposal as is:

Road and Bridge	\$450,000
General Government	\$ 99,643
Clearwater Fire	\$ 102,949 (Preliminary number)
Annandale Fire	\$ 13,600 (Preliminary number)
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TOTAL	\$ 602,175

The proposed Annual Meeting agenda was discussed. The Board will hold the meeting in person and the meeting will be streamed live, view only. Considerations at the Febr

monthly meeting include whether newspaper, attorney and bank items remain on the agenda as those do not need to be voter approved, and the CWCL Food Shelf Donation. It is noted that we have not received a formal request for a donation from the Clearwater Library. Johnson will provide the statutorily required language relating to donations if the request is received. 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.

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Plaggerman, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt
Lynden Township Clerk