

Lynden Township
Budget & Levy Meeting / Annual Meeting Planning
January 24, 2024

Present: Supervisors Tom Plaggerman, Dennis Niemi and Scott O’Konek, Treasurer Jean Schermer and Clerk Jenny Schmidt. Plaggerman 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, and the 2023-2024 budget and levy numbers. Treasurer Schermer reviewed a detailed report of revenues and expenditures from 2023, and discussed projected revenues and expenditures and the variables through 2025. Schermer was unable to provide a draft 2025 budget without having an amount for Annandale Fire, City of Clearwater Fire, and Road and Bridge. Schermer will prepare a draft 2023 Treasurer’s Report which will be provided to residents at the March 12th annual meeting.

It is unknown at this time of the potential increase above the 2024 Levy pending receipt of those expenditures previously listed but meeting discussions did include gas taxes remaining constant, remaining ARPA Funds, Road and Bridge estimates, and fire costs. The Board requests Schermer provide a breakdown of revenues and a breakdown of any one (1) time expenses that affected the 2023 numbers, ie: land purchase, Clearwater Clearlake Food Shelf donation. 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.

The 2023 Land Purchase was discussed and the possibility of recommending a cold storage shed that could eventually serve as a salt shed, with future plans to budget for a 60x60 full maintenance shop.

An article on updating our Comprehensive Plan will also be put in the newsletter.

Niemi proposes a preliminary Road and Bridge budget of \$410,000, later modified to continue at \$450,000 as in was 2024. Dust control for all roads with an application of 12 foot wide on most roads, and 18 foot wide on high traffic roads will continue. Gravel will be applied to the center 1/3 of the Township. Niemi recommends budgeting for the purchase of 7000 tons of gravel in 2025. The 5-year Road Study was received from Hakanson Anderson Engineering and recommends reconstruction and overlay of 200th St (21st to CR 145) (10 Ton) in the 2024/2025 season. Eaglewood Rd is recommended for reconstruction and overlay in 2026. Plaggerman will research options for bonding and/or levy of these two (2) major asphalt projects. After review of all potential road work, the preliminary R&B budget is now \$450,000, which does not include the costs for the road projects identified by the Engineer in our 5-year Road Study. Treasurer Schermer will incorporate the items identified above and have a proposed levy for the regular monthly meeting on February 5th so that continued discussions occur, with the full board voting on a recommendation to the electorate at time. She will leave out any projected costs for road projects so that options can be presented at the annual meeting.

The proposed Annual Meeting agenda was discussed. O'Konek will present the township updates including Newspaper, attorney and bank items as those do not need to be voter approved. Treasurer Schermer will present the Treasurer's report. Niemi will present the road report. Plaggerman will present the proposed levy.

Plaggerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m., seconded by O'Konek, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt
Lynden Township Clerk