

TOWN OF LAKESIDE Budget Meeting October 18, 2022.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Scott Luostari 6 pm

Roll Call: Mark Saari, Tom Schnepfer, Ted Helin, Barb Helin, Tracy Ruppe, Nova Nordrum, Heather Helget, Supervisors Mary Peterson and Gerald Tutor, Treasurer Vicki Luostari, and Clerk Ruth Ann Schnepfer.

Scott read all the anticipated revenues. Budget was gone through line by line. Going to be a tougher budget with the economy and cost of things this year.

Scott mentioned that all the board positions are under the county averages. County averages are Chair \$5,100, Supervisors \$3,500, Clerk \$12,000, and Treasurer \$6,700. All board raises if any, do not go into effect until after the April 2023 election. The Chair, Supervisors, and Treasurer all stayed at their current rates. The Clerk salary was raised \$1,500 to \$10,000 (includes FICA and Medicare match). An individual asked about potentially having an audit every time a Treasurer or Clerk position changes, audits run upwards of \$10,000 each. The company who did ours last audit no longer does them so we would need to find a new company should an audit be needed.

Fire Department- Nova stated she is getting burned out as she has been covering EMS for a lot of other Municipalities lately. It was decided to keep their budget the same for 2023, except for \$5,000 of the ARPA money to use this year. Maybe next year there could be the same or possibly more, but the board does not want to spend all the ARPA money at one time.

Wages-skipped now

Utilities need to increase due to rising costs; propane went up .30/ gallon, culverts increased greatly. We need a few larger culverts replaced in the next couple of years. Fuel is \$8,000 over budget. We either can put gravel on the roads or grade the roads. Gravel budget was cut \$7,644 and that money was placed on the fuel budget line. People are stealing signs off the roads again so we will need to replace some of them as well. To help save some money the board could investigate more energy efficient, lighting, programmable thermostats, new doors etc.

Cemetery maintenance went down some. It was mentioned that some of the headstones are crooked and not level. Wanting to know if anything can be done. Most local cemeteries have volunteers that offer to come in and fix those issues. It was also asked why we do not hire out for opening and closing gravesites, like a few of the other municipalities do. Sometimes it is hard to find someone when the job is needed, that is when the guys do that job.

Debt service stayed the same.

Needed to reduce lines 5,13,53 &66 to increase lines 7,14,40,41 and 48 to not raise the levy more than the state allowable limit.

Question was raised about why we even need to do snowplowing anymore when the expenses are going so high. Nova mentioned that it helps that the guys do the driveways, as first responders and FD they need to be able to get out quickly. Snowplowing to be revisited after the first of the year.

Question was raised about the website; states it has been years that a new website has been promised. The website is and has been in process. The company had to start from scratch as the old administrator of the website, would not return any communication from the current website.

Gerald brought up that he would like to discuss the employees' salaries in a closed session. Gerald made a motion to have a closed meeting Saturday 10/22 at 10 pm, Mary seconded, carried 7:10 pm. It was asked as to when we got two fulltime people, it is only one full time and one permanent part time employee, it is too had to fit all that in the area, which is why they were listed as 1 & 2.

Motion made by Gerald to adjourn, Mary seconded, adjourned 7:12 pm.

Gerald made a resolution to present the budget to the electors as presented, with a total levy amount of \$168,428 which includes the State allowed increase of \$989, Scott seconded, carried 11:08 am. To be brought to the electors at 6 pm on 11/9/22 immediately prior to the 11/9/22 regular board meeting.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Schnepfer

10/28/2022

Town hall, Collection site, Website