

Special Town Board/Budget Meeting of October 22, 2019

Meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman Maines, who noted that this meeting was duly called with notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the Sayner Post Office, and the Star Lake Post Office, and notice given to the Vilas County News-Review, The Lakeland Times, and WERL-WRJO Radio Stations of Eagle River, as well as posted on the town website. Supervisor Schmidt, Supervisor Wiggenhauser and Clerk Brooker were also present.

Proposal from Jim Harmon on Bartering Offer of Grader:

Chairman Maines stated that he had taken Jim Harmon to the Star Lake Cemetery to look things over. Jim said it would be difficult to get a truck down to the bottom and recommended burying stumpage, branches etc. He figured he would have 2 ½ to 3 days of work and will cost between \$6 and \$8,000. He charges \$175 an hour for excavator work, plus labor of another man. Jim thinks he could possibly get it done this Fall yet, and if not, he'd do it in the Spring. Chairman Maines said there was \$20,000 put aside in the budget for the Cemetery Project. There could possibly be a new entrance and parking area at the cemetery. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to hire Jim Harmon, but it lacked a 2nd as Supervisor Wiggenhauser wanted to see a written proposal from Jim Harmon to protect themselves. Supervisor Schmidt withdrew his motion. Chairman Maines will call Jim Harmon and ask him for an itemized estimate of what he will be doing on the Cemetery Project. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to table the item until a future meeting, Supervisor Wiggenhauser seconded, motion carried.

Discussion on 2020 Budget:

Eric Scarboro, the health insurance representative from Wisconsin Benefits Planning was at the meeting. He stated the Town's Health Insurance was higher because Jeremy Arnold had added his daughter to his insurance policy and Jimmy Mortag had added his wife and baby to his policy. Chairman Maines asked Eric to send an email documenting the enrollments of the employees. Eric gave the Town Board its options for the 2020 health insurance plans. One was to keep the plan they have which will have an increase of \$754 a month, an alternative plan which would allow employees to go to Marshfield Clinic or Ascension only. United Health Care, which had high deductibles and Anthem which would be a \$3000 increase instead of an \$8,000 increase if they keep the same coverage. Anthem also provides a more extensive area. Eric stated that prices can fluctuate if employees are hired and fired during the year. After discussion, the Board decided to go with the Anthem Insurance Plan and put \$8,400 in the HRA Benefits and \$52,332.61 in the Insurance Other line.

The Board tabled Library salaries until they could have a closed session and allow time to find out what Librarians are being paid in the area and what kind of raises were being considered. Supervisor Wiggenhauser will meet with the Library Board for input on raises. The Board discussed getting LED's for the outside lighting and motion sensors for bathroom lighting and other areas of the Library.

The Board then discussed Parks and Recreation expenses. The Town Crew are to be instructed by a Board member on how to take care of all outdoor toilet facilities, by cleaning, deodorizing and scheduling pumping services as needed. It was noted that the town crew should be reminded that 2 dead trees need to be taken down in the Sayner cemetery. It was decided that all of Jimmy Mortag's grave digging and cremation burials should be paid through the Town's payroll system. Also noted that when using the grant money for the Rec Building, entry locks should be addressed first due to donors wishes.

Chairman Maines shared what he had learned in his discussion with Nick Scholtes about applying for the Grant for Carl Eliason Street. Chairman Maines also said that Mr. Scholtes had mentioned another grant called TRID is available and suggests that the Town apply for both available grants for roads the town is interested in doing. Upcoming meetings were discussed. Next Regular Town Board Meeting was set for November 19th, 2019, following the Budget Hearing Meeting and Special Meeting to Approve the Levy. Clerk Brooker reminded the board that the budget had to be finalized by October 29th. A meeting on October 24th was scheduled to address the M-Bank loan and RFP's. The closed meeting is for addressing employees' evaluations. Clerk Brooker is to find out what other area towns are giving for pay raises for library directors, and public works. A meeting was set for October 29th to finalize the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

A voice recording of this meeting is available in the Clerk's office.

These minutes were taken at the Annual Town Meeting of the town of Plum Lake held on the 22nd day of October 2019 and were entered in this Record Book by: