

TOWN OF DRAPER

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The BUDGET HEARING for the Town of Draper was called to order on November 18, 2020 at 6:12 p.m. at the Draper Town Hall. Present were Chairman D. Zett, Clerk E Klein and eight citizens. The minutes for the November 2019 Budget & Levy meeting were approved on a motion by B. Adler, second E. Peters; all in favor, motion carried. E. Peters noted that the formal adoption of the budget by the board should take place at the December 14 board meeting, not here, as this meeting is not a board meeting. E. Klein agreed and the suggestion was taken.

Clerk E. Klein provided the citizens with the 2021 Proposed Budget Summary and Detail Budget. She noted that the board will be adopting the summary budget, not the line-item budget, because it provides more flexibility throughout the year if unforeseen expenditures arise. Discussion of the documents followed.

E. Klein noted that 2021 Proposed Budget Revenues are lower than the previous year because the BCPL dump truck loan was paid off and no longer on the levy. Also, private driveway snowplowing revenues are absent, as hopefully will be the excess associated expenditures of over \$40,000.00 in vehicle and equipment repairs, which required the Board to pass Resolution #5 2020 to cover with funds from the Capital Projects account.

E. Peters noted that the cost of fire protection may need to be increased if the status of the Draper Fire Department changes.

E. Peters asked what road projects are planned, as there are no major projects identified in the 2021 Proposed Budget. D. Zett stated the board needs to catch up on debt and equipment expenditures and will try to make do for the coming year. E. Peters and B. Adler expressed concern about the deteriorated condition of many roads and stated that projects need to be planned every year. E. Peters stated that it is the duty of the Supervisors to attend the various Local Road Improvement Project meetings at the county and to pursue grant opportunities and budget for annual major road repair projects into the future.

E. Klein pointed out that the Proposed Budget notes indicate a County Highway Improvement grant for \$55,000.00 had been obtained in 2019 and could be used up until 2025- this grant requires \$55,000.00 in matching funds. E. Klein stated that there would be enough money in the Capital Projects fund to do the project in 2021. D. Zett stated he wanted to wait before using the Capital Projects Fund money to match the grant funds, in case more machine repairs are needed.

B. Adler expressed concerns about the condition of Clover Road and damage to vehicles and tires from the graveled areas. Other citizens are complaining. W. Heath stated that the town employees need to be maintaining the repaired areas more often. D. Zett said the cold patch they used was not applied correctly by the employees.

E. Peters stated that the way to plan for consistent long term upkeep of the town roads is to apply for loans and keep the levy up, instead of cutting taxes and putting a bandaid on the roads. B. Adler stated she would rather see the cost spread out on the levy than keep paying to fix her car.

E. Klein stated that the time to plan projects and apply for loans that can be placed on the levy is spring- it is too late in the year to obtain any loans in time to get them on the levy due to deadlines for printing the tax bills. It was stated that more people need to come to the meetings throughout the year to see that their concerns get addressed so decisions can be made on loans and projects in time to put them on the levy.

With no further discussion on the 2021 Proposed Budget, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 on a motion by B. Adler, second C. Klein. All in favor, motion carried.

The SPECIAL MEETING OF TOWN ELECTORS was called to order at 6:43 to approve raises for the Treasurer and Supervisors, and to approve the 2020 Total Tax Levy Payable in 2021.

A salary increase of \$50.00 per month for the Treasurer was proposed. B. Adler stated the Treasurer gets enough in mileage and doesn't need a mailbox in town. B. Adler stated that for all the years she was the clerk, people put their tax payments in the locked mailbox at the Town Hall and they never lost a single payment. E. Peters made a motion to approve the salary increase, second by B. Adler. Eight electors approved, two abstained, zero objected. Motion carried.

A salary increase of \$50.00 per month for the Town Supervisors was proposed. W. Heath stated the Supervisors have not had a raise in thirty years. The raise was approved on a motion by B. Adler, second C. Klein; all in favor, motion carried.

The discussion turned to the levy. C. Klein stated that the town should expect to pay enough taxes to be able to cover the current rate everyone else pays for wages, salaries, Fire Department and highway expenses. Otherwise, we won't have any infrastructure left.

The electors agreed that everything is falling apart in Draper.

W. Heath and D. Zett stated that the roads haven't been good in forty years and the paved roads were never built correctly so they don't have the proper base, and that the towns roads have never been maintained properly.

E. Peters objected to this and gave examples of numerous annual major projects and maintenance done throughout his tenure as town chair. He listed grants he received and stated again that road projects cost money and those funds must be borrowed and placed on the levy. He stated that it was a requirement for the town board to attend highway meetings and apply for the LRIP grants, and they need to have a plan for five to ten years into the future. He told D. Zett to stop wasting the gravel that was supposed to last ten years on patching the paved roads, and fix the roads the right way.

With no further discussion arising, B. Adler made a motion to approve the Total Tax Levy of \$84,028.00, second E. Peters; all in favor, motion carried.

With no further discussion, motion to adjourn by B. Adler, second E. Klein; meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.