

TOWN OF MUKWONAGO BUDGET HEARING

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

The Town of Mukwonago Budget Hearing was called to order at the Mukwonago Town Hall, W320 S8315 Beulah Road, Mukwonago, WI at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Supervisors B. Lawn, F. Leppin, T. Stefanowski, P. Topczewski and Chairman D. Dubey.

Others Present: Accountant M. Rotroff, Treasurer D. Steinke, Police Chief G. Turner, Fire Chief J. Rolfe, Recreation Director T. Monogue, Clerk K. Wilson and 109 Town residents.

Town Accountant M. Rotroff presented the 2009 Town of Mukwonago Budget. He explained the Budget Summary which shows a 2% levy limit as required by State Statute. The Town Board is proposing to charge for garbage collection which would be \$154 per household for 2800 households. He reviewed the categories in the Budget and their costs. He said the cost of snowplowing for the last two years has greatly exceeded the Budgets so the Town's General Fund Surplus is very low. The Town tries to have the General Fund at 25% of the total budgeted expenses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracy Hein, CTH I, said there are differences with wants and needs and she thinks the Town Board is not differentiating between wants and needs. One example is the 4% pay increase for all Town employees. It is not a need. A second example is overtime for the Police Department. There needs to be limits on vacation and time off requested.

Homeowners have to live within their means, the Town should live within their means.

Diana Wood, Paul Lane, suggested that garbage be picked up every other week and the Police force should be reduced. She said she will be on a fixed income next year and doesn't need another tax.

Pat Crotty, Memory Lane, questioned the amount of salt the Town uses for snowplowing.

Gail Bednar, Laurens Parkway, said the snowplowers put down too much sand and salt on her road and they were there when there was no snow to plow. She suggested reducing the number of times the subdivision roads are plowed.

James Bednar, Laurens Parkway, said there are a lot of companies that are reducing wages and benefits. The Town needs to live within their means.

Dick Bowers, Short Drive, thanked the Town Board for their years of service and for fixing his driveway after the Country Bliss pumping. He questioned how the garbage fee relates to the 2% levy limit. He questioned the Police Department wages.

M. Rotroff said the Union Contract allows a 4% wage increase over the year and step wages based on years of service.

D. Bowers said he is not anti-Police, but there is an overtime problem. He asked if part-time officers who do not get benefits could work more hours. D. Dubey said the Union Contract would not allow that.

D. Bowers said not everyone should get the 4% wage increase. He asked if the Town puts out for bids outside services such as attorney, engineer and assessor. He asked if the Town Protective Services Committee reviews with the Village of Mukwonago the Fire Department Budget.

Karl Flierl, Country Lane, said he moved to the Town of Mukwonago because of the lower taxes. He does not want the taxes to be raised. The garbage fee would not allow him to take a deduction on the \$154 cost. He said once a fee is allowed, there will be another fee in the future. He suggested having a referendum to increase the levy limits.

Ruth Ann Nicoson, Road X, said she is against the garbage fee proposal. It is a way of circumventing the 2% tax levy limit. She suggested the following ways to reduce the Budget:

- 1) Town Attorney not be at all meetings
- 2) Shorten the time the Town Engineer is at meetings
- 3) Is the Town Planner necessary at all meetings?
- 4) Save \$7500 by having residents bring yard waste to the Town Hall two times per year

She said when the 2% levy limit is added to the \$431,000 being charged for garbage, the tax rate would increase by 22.26%.

She said she is on a fixed income and has to live within her means. The Town should live within their means.

Lyle Boucher, Valley View Drive, questioned if the Budget was ever amended before it was passed. D. Dubey said the Budget has been amended in the past.

Tom Gimler, Memory Lane Court, suggested to cut back on subdivision plowing and sanding until there is at least three inches of snow on the road. He also questioned if the Town has checked into the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department patrolling the Town of Mukwonago rather than our own Police Department.

Georgette Krippel, Applewood Lane, said she does not want to cut the Budget that affects the safety of our families. She does not think the Police Department or Fire Department is the place to cut. She wants to have a quick response time from both departments.

Tracy Tipton, Mark Lane, said safety is too important to be cut from the Budget. She said the snowplowers come through plowing nothing and dumping sand. She questioned how the Recreation Department is self-sufficient with the salary and wages being paid to them.

D. Dubey said the Recreation Department charges fees for programs.

She said her necessities are police, fire, garbage and roads, not the Recreation Department.

Bill Heeringa, Squire Court, questioned why the Town was cutting grass along Sugden Road in the middle of November.

F. Leppin said the Town cuts the weeds so the snow can be pushed back.

Michelle Burghaus, Wigwam Drive, suggested that the Budget Hearing be held on a different date other than during deer hunting season and Parent-Teacher Conference. She questioned what happens with foreclosed properties and their taxes.

Gail Yerke, Frog Alley Road, asked that the \$154 garbage fee be absorbed in the Budget so it can be deducted for income tax purposes. She said a garbage fee would open the door to future fees. She suggested to reconsider the 4% raise for all staff and to look more closely at the Park and Recreation Department Budget.

Rick Brunlinger, Ellen Drive, suggested fewer pick-ups for garbage.

Sharon Knapp, Oak Knoll Drive, said she is concerned about the roads and road repair. She questioned if the Town would have fees for fire and ambulance.

Leonard Kressin, Saxony Court, suggested that the Town get a proposal from the Sheriff's Department for coverage and a dedicated squad.

Jim Hintz, Red Brae Drive, asked if the Town knows about the other tax rates such as the schools, state, county, etc.

M. Rotroff said the Town does not get those numbers until after Thanksgiving.

Ruth Ann Nicoson, Road X, said the reserve fund has been drawn down over the years by the snowplowing. She said this building will be paid off next year so the Town can start building up the reserve fund.

M. Rotroff said it is not a good option to borrow money to pay the bills.

Kathy Usarek, Paul Lane, questioned if the Park and Recreation Department is really budget neutral. Last year, there would be two plows in her subdivision, but neither of them would plow her street.

Don Karl, Cherokee Pass, said the Town should have the yard waste pick-up at the Town Hall to save \$7,000.

Bob Maus, Cherry Lane, said there has to be a squad in the Town to respond to any emergency call.

Motion by T. Stefanowski, seconded by B. Lawn, to close the Public Hearing.

Motion carried.

TOWN OF MUKWONAGO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Special Town Meeting was called to order.
Chairman D. Dubey said the meeting was noticed.

2009 Highway Expenditure

Motion by F. Leppin, seconded by T. Stefanowski, to approve the \$725,768 highway expenditures in the 2009 Town of Mukwonago Budget. Motion carried.

2008 Town Tax Levy

R. Nicoson asked if the Town Board was taking the charge for garbage out of the Budget before the vote on the Town Tax Levy was voted on.

Advisory Motion:

Motion by D. Bowers, seconded by K. Flierl, to remove the garbage fee of \$154.00 from the Town of Mukwonago Budget. Motion carried.

P. Topczewski said the revenues are capped at 2% and the expenditures are unregulated and exceed the 2%. He said this Budget is doomed to fail. You're arguing about garbage service. We need to find \$400,000+ to cut out of the Budget, if you do not allow the Town Board to charge for garbage service. What do we cut? Police? Fire? Ambulance? M. Rotroff said with the removal of the ambulance (\$67,000) from the Budget by the Village of Mukwonago, the Town would need \$47,148 to have a balanced budget with a reserve of \$316,000.

Motion by R. Nicoson, seconded by R. Schuett, to set the Town of Mukwonago Tax Levy at \$1,706,391.

R. Nicoson said the amount is the 2% increase minus the garbage fee.

D. Dubey asked if the Town Board would reconsider their position of charging a garbage fee in relation to the motion.

F. Leppin, T. Stefanowski and D. Dubey reconsidered their position to charge a garbage fee.

R. Nicoson and R. Schuett withdrew their motion.

Motion by R. Nicoson, seconded by R. Schuett, to adopt the Town of Mukwonago Tax Levy of \$2,137,591. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Steinke, seconded by R. Nicoson, to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.
Motion carried.

TOWN OF MUKWONAGO SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Special Town Board Meeting was called to order at 9:13 p.m.
Chairman D. Dubey said the meeting was noticed.

2009 Budget

Motion by F. Leppin, seconded by T. Stefanowski, to approve the amended 2009 Town of Mukwonago Budget which made the following changes:

- 1) Eliminated the \$431,200 garbage fee
- 2) Increased the ambulance fees by \$13,000
- 3) Zero wage and related benefit costs for non-represented employees – \$14,314
- 4) Removed ambulance from Budget - \$67,872
- 5) Removed contracted fire services – Village of North Prairie - \$2,470
- 6) Removed contracted ambulance services – Village of North Prairie - \$2,470
- 7) Reduced capital outlays – general government by \$2,334
- 8) Reduction in fire suppression - \$5,000
- 9) Removed yard waste pickup - \$7,560
- 10) Surplus in Budget - \$316,180

Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stefanowski, seconded by F. Leppin, to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.
Motion carried.

Katherine W. Wilson
Town Clerk
Town of Mukwonago