

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
Townsend Town Hall  
6:00PM

Chairperson Carla VanCamp called the meeting to order at 6pm.

VanCamp introduced DNR Warden Jamin Leuzzo. Officer Leuzzo is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and served in law enforcement many years in Duluth, MN. He is excited to be able to serve in this area and has made many contacts to continue his success. His phone number is 715-219-5161.

Roll call: Chairperson Carla Van Camp, Supervisor Linda Adamczyk, Supervisor Claude Bowman, Treasurer Beth Hartman, Clerk Linda Ziegler. 20 citizens

Verification of proper agenda notice: Ziegler posted the agenda on November 2, 2019 at Townsend Post Office, Townsend Town Hall, Karla's Kountry Kitchen and [www.townsendwisconsin.org](http://www.townsendwisconsin.org) and the Lakes Country Beacon November 1, 2019 edition

Adamczyk made the motion to accept the minutes Public Budget Hearing minutes of November 20, 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bowman – M/A

VanCamp stated the 2020 tax levy will be \$583,961.00. The Mill rate is 1.8963 which is a decrease of 1.78% from 2019.

The Wabeno School district tax went down since the referendum is done.

The town purchased a 2020 Freightliner Plow Truck in October for \$160,000.00. A certificate of deposit was cashed, additional funding in the highway depreciation and a good trade in on the 2014 Freightliner made is possible to purchase in full.

Cost to the Community Ambulance will increase from \$55,000.00 to \$72,000.00. They are requesting additional staffing.

New election equipment will be purchased. The cost will be approx. \$5600, after a \$2000.00 grant from the County.

The Storm damage has put a strain on the budget and the board continues to finagle the costs within in the budget.

Now that we are in a Library agreement, we have to budget an extra \$45,585.00 to offset the 2019 taxes. The county Tax is \$56,000.00. 2021 will get down to a regular fee.

Completed 2019 roadwork included blacktopping Warbler, Summer and Bobcat Ln. There was no crack filling because of the storm

Fire Department is approved for three supporting turnout gears and 3 more air pacs for \$7000.00

Depreciation fund was dipped into to offset the storm expenses. Any money coming from FEMA and forestry can replenish these funds.

All regular hourly employees will be receiving a raise.

In 2020, the culvert on Burnt Dam will be replaced at the cost of \$35,000. Blacktopping will include Nicolet rd. from Hwy 32 to the bridge. Fernwood and Lonesome Ln will be double chipped and we will crack fill. Street signs will be replaced. VanCamp is also applying for a MLS grant for Presbyterian Road from Hwy 5 to Bullfrog The TRIP for 2021 will be Burnt Dam from Roosevelt to just past Forest Dr.

2020 loans include the Ambulance for \$80,000, the 2016 Freightliner for \$19,586, which will be paid off in January, and \$25,000.00 3-year, 0% loan from the county for storm related expenses. Also, 3-year, 0% loan from the county for the new election equipment

The DNR is replacing all of the culverts on Forest Hills, so that roadwork will be looked at in a few years.

Dan Martin asked about the Culvert work on Burnt Dam. \$35,000.00 for the culvert and the work. There is no aid available from the county or Trout Unlimited, however the DNR may have some grant money. Tom Roberts asked about the other roads that bad, and if the Hwy budget is down \$64,000 from last year, why not use that. VanCamp said the storm bills are not all in and will be reflected at the end of the year. Dawn Herlache asked why drop the mil-rate, just use that additional to repair more roads or pay off debt quicker? VanCamp stated blacktop is \$125,000.00/mile, so the little we reduced won't make a difference. Dan Martin reminded everyone that the Lake District fees will be increasing in 2020 to \$150.00 or \$200.00 per parcel. Kathleen Marsh asked what the town can raise the levy every year, which is 3%. She suggested even a small amount can accumulate with time and would be in the towns best interest to continue to put the excess into depreciation. Tom Derrickson suggested putting extra money into something more important rather than reducing the mill rate. John Brantmeier doesn't think there would be any complaints raising the levy to use that money this year. Beth Hartman asked if we wanted to add the \$11,000.00 back into the budget. Another meeting would have to be scheduled to approve. VanCamp said we will keep all of these comments in mind when doing the 2021 budget. She also thanked the town citizens for their comments.

Kathleen Marsh made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Heyrman – M/A