

Town of Otter Creek – November 12, 2019
– Budget Hearing
- Special Town Meeting
- Regular Town Board Meeting

Attendees:

Chairman Mark Warner*
Supervisor 1 Cecil Hayes*
Supervisor 2 LeAnn Ralph*
Clerk/Treasurer Bev Bernier*
Patrolman Gary Anderson
Guests, Bob Bernier, Chuck Boyer, Preston Pearson, Levi Wagner

*Board Members

BUDGET HEARING

The Budget Hearing Meeting was called to order by Chairman Warner at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. In attendance were four board members, plus five interested people. Clerk had posted notices in the three designated areas of the Township plus all three meetings were published in the Colfax Messenger.

The 2020 proposed budget was presented by Bernier, Clerk-Treasurer, and some discussion followed. This year's allowable tax levy for Otter Creek is \$112,954, a decrease of \$2,089, as allowed by the State of Wisconsin. The decrease is due in part to the payoff of the fire hall loan in 2019, which is \$4,065, and previous years was \$11,030. After some discussion, there were no changes to the budget as it was presented.

Hayes made a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing Meeting at 7:14 p.m. Ralph seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted – Bev Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Chairman Warner at 7:21 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. All people as noted above were in attendance, plus advertising as noted above was done so as stated.

Hayes made a motion to accept the 2019 Town Tax Levy as \$112,954 allowable figure to be used in the 2020 budget pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(A) Wis. Stats. Ralph seconded the motion. Carried. Opposed – 0.

Warner made a motion to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:22 p.m. Ralph seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted – Bev Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Warner at 7:23 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. Same people were in attendance, plus advertising had been done as stated above.

Note: Meeting minutes were not read by the Clerk or approved by the board. Meeting minutes will be on the agenda for approval at the December regular board meeting, with request for approval of October and November, 2019 meeting minutes.

Ralph made a motion to adopt the 2020 budget and 2019 tax levy to be paid in 2020 as presented. Warner seconded the motion. Carried. Opposed – 0.

Old Business

Preston Pearson from Mosaic is here to discuss an investment they are looking to do in the Otter Creek area. They currently don't serve the entire Otter Creek Township. They have the Sandcreek Exchange. They are going to everyone within their service area (Sandcreek, Wilson, Otter Creek, etc) to propose their investment which is to put fiber optic lines into everyone's homes, and for Otter Creek the cost is more than \$1 million. The speeds will be faster and lines more reliable. The Federal Government, Department of Ag – rural utility service, has low interest loans available.

Pearson's second point is that the State of Wisconsin has a broadband application process. Mosaic will apply for this area and it is a public/private partnership. The government requests more than a letter of support. The letter from the Town would state that we are waiving our permitting fees. The plan is to start construction in the Summer of 2021. Residents do not have to accept the service, but they are given the opportunity to sign documentation permitting Mosaic to bury the lines. For this project we are waiving the permitting fees. This will be about 130 people in the Township who will be served by this project. The letter should have a high level understanding that Otter Creek is waiving the utility fee, but not waiving the specs of the permit. Preston will give us language used in other permitting fee waivers.

Motion is made by Ralph to waive the fees, but the permitting and ordinance requirements are not waived, seconded by Hayes, motion carried. Applications are due December 19, 2019. Bernier to send Preston an email, copying in Mark Warner, so Preston can reply to all with documentation.

New Business

- **Appointment of Fire Chief** - Motion to approve Donald Logslett as the Fire Chief of Colfax Community. Ralph made the motion to accept this appointment, Hayes seconded. Motion carried. Bernier notarized the requested document which will be sent to the Fire Station.
- **Fuel tanks** – 1000 gallon fuel tanks will be here the week of November 18, 2019. Chippewa Valley Energy may potentially take the two- 500 gallon fuel tanks and we will own one 1000 gallon fuel tank and a second 1000 gallon fuel tank will be owned by Chippewa Valley Energy. We can get meters on the tanks and gauges. Hayes made a motion to authorize the trade of 2 – 500 gallon fuel tanks for 2 -1000 gallon tanks, seconded by Ralph. Motion carried.
- **Election Security Plan and Resolution** – review in December. Bernier provided a high level overview of the contingency plan, with alternate polling place of Otter Creek Farm. Contingency Plan and Resolution to be reviewed at the December, 2019, regular town board meeting.

- **Bob Irwin contract** – Ralph made a motion to approve the Assessor Contract, seconded by Warner. Motion passed. Document and copy were signed by the board, Bernier will return a signed copy to Irwin.
- **Grant status** - Mark filed the DOT map and report with the State in October, 2019. Mark contacted Wirth Bros about the bill for the last culvert repair, and once the bill is received Mark can file the grant application. Mark is meeting with Paul Frank (Woodwind Park) November 13, 2019 regarding the intermodal grant.
- **Road Work/Equipment** – we have the salt/sand, and are getting 10 loads of supplies for Spring from Wirth Bros. Mowing is caught up, tractor tires are on, and the grader tires are on. 710th – it used to be 1.4 miles, we traded .16 with Tainter. Gary cracked this in 2000 we put a \$9000 seal coat on it. In 1999 and 2000, we spent about \$15,000 on this section and it lasted 20 years. We seal coated one year after blacktopping. We need to decide how much base to put on it if we are going to blacktop in the Spring.

Gary wants to know what our backup is for snow storms, who to call, what to do. Last year, it rained on 2/4/2019, and then it snowed through 4/10/2019. Gary earned 4 to 5 weeks of time off. We need a backup truck. The rims are still cracking on the truck from pushing snowbanks. Faron Flatland has offered to run the grader on weekends. Do we need to make him on-call? A 3” storm takes Gary 9 hours to clear. It took Gary 8 straight days to clear after last years snow storm.

NOTE: Put on agenda for December what our contingency back-up plan is for snow removal.

- In the Spring of 2019, resident on 730th (DeMoe) was informed that if they have vehicles in the road during snow storms their road will not be plowed.
- **Solid waste/recycling for Dunn County** – there is a meeting on November 14, 2019 that Mark will attend.

Auditing of bills for payment

Financial Report

Clerk went through the finances.	Equipment Account -	\$18,668.91
	Tax Account -	\$88,750.97
	Checking Account -	\$46,208.59

Motion to accept the treasurers report made by Ralph, seconded by Warner. Motion carried. Ralph moved to adjourn the monthly meeting, seconded by Hayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Bev Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

Lunch schedule: [December – all](#)

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

Gary Anderson – 715-658-1483; Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310; Mark Warner – 715-658-1602, 715-556-6083 (cell); Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6634 (cell); LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336; Town Shop - 715-658-1319; Bev Bernier - 715-658-0131; Chuck Boyer – 715-600-4149