

Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting and Budget Discussion held on Thursday, October 7, 2021

The Town of Newbold Town Board, met on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., for a Special Town Board meeting and budget discussion at the Town of Newbold Fire Department, 4588 Highway 47, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, Oneida County, Wisconsin.

The following were in attendance: Chairman, Dave Kroll, Supervisors, Jim Staskiewicz, Mike Sueflohn, Mike McKenzie and Dan Hess; along with Clerk, Kim Gauthier; Treasurer, Jodie Hess and Public Works Director, Mark Fetzer. Chairman Kroll called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and verified the agenda was properly noticed to the public.

Discussion on 2022 town budget.

The town board reviewed and discussed the cost of employee health insurance, high deductible savings contributions, proposed wage increases for public works in 2022 and the 2021 implementation of a health insurance opt out, as presented by Town Clerk, Kim Gauthier. The board received a wage spreadsheet, health insurance premium costs and benefits costs projections from Mrs. Gauthier. State health insurance premiums for 2022 were also presented to the board along with a new option for accidental injury insurance at the employee's expense.

Motion by Mr. Sueflohn and Mr. Staskiewicz to offer to the employees the optional accidental injury insurance plan, as presented. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.

Mr. Hess recommended an increase in the health savings account contribution. Chairman Kroll recommended an increase in wages. Mr. Hess indicated the consumer price index for next year to be 2.3 percent. *Motion by Mr. Kroll and Mr. Sueflohn to increase the road crew wages by three percent for 2022. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

Discussion on increasing the opt-out of health insurance pay to a higher amount. The clerk noted this benefit is taxable to the employee. Mr. McKenzie recommended a payment to the employee of \$400 per month or \$4800 per year to opt out of health insurance if an employee can obtain insurance through another family member. Mr. Kroll recommended \$800 per month or \$9600 per year for the employee. Further discussion on the cost of health insurance premiums. *Motion by Mr. Kroll and Mr. McKenzie to amend the opt-out health insurance option to fifty-percent of the employer's share of the health insurance premiums for either a single or family plan. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

Motion by Mr. Staskiewicz and Mr. Hess to continue the high deductible state health insurance plan as currently provided. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye. The Clerk noted any future change to another plan option with the state plan would require an approved resolution prior to October 1st.

The board agreed to leave the health savings account town contribution as is at the 2021 rate of \$1500/\$3000, single/family plan amount. Appendix A of the employee handbook will be acted on at the next regular board meeting and reflect any changes.

Discussion on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the town has received and possible lost revenue use. The treasurer will research the latest information on this matter. Chairman Kroll noted the town received a request that consideration be taken for funds distributed to Wild Instincts. Further discussion by the board on this request led to no action by the board.

2022 Budget worksheet presented with tentative proposed 2022 budget numbers leaving the overall budget short over -\$12,000. The levy limit increase per the state for Newbold is an increase of \$11,866 total for 2022. Further discussion on the budget will continue at the October 14th regular board finance meeting.

Administrative review and action, if necessary, concerning general government, public safety, recycling, sanitation, culture, education, job assignments, project updates, transportation, budget items, fund transfers, and future agenda items.

Public Comment and Communication Period per Wisconsin Statutes whereby the Town Board may receive input on any matter raised by the public.

Comment by Mark Fetzer that tax payer money should not be granted to non-profit organizations like Wild Instincts.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m., with no objection by the board.

Respectfully submitted by
Kim Gauthier, Newbold Town Clerk