

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF MERRILL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND
SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
HELD AT THE TOWN OF MERRILL COMMUNITY CENTER
NOVEMBER 11th, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M.**

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING:

Chairman Mike Hass called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chairman Mike Hass, Supervisors Darrel Dengel, Matt Leder, Tim Mueske Scott Oberg all in attendance. Clerk Mitzi Flegner. Absent Treasurer Kay Tautges-excused absence.

Also present: See sign in sheet.

The proposed Town of Merrill 2025 Budget was discussed line by line.

Rodney Gutenberger asked what Misc. Income was, Clerk Mitzi Flegner explained that it included dog licenses, special assessment fees, the biggest contributor to it is the interest we receive from the public purpose first money market account. Tony Baumann asked what insurance is paid under insurance expenses, it is unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, and property insurance. Scott Streich asked if any money is being put aside for a new furnace system, there is \$30,000 in the Hall Rental Fund. Larry Simon suggested that we should be looking into putting money aside in case we would need to buy a new truck, instead of taking a loan out. Chairman Mike Hass said we will talk about that in the next meeting to possibly put it in the levy. Scott Streich asked why we are not hiring out for snow plowing this year, Ryan Dewar does not want to do it anymore, and it is too late to get anyone else now, plus it would be too expensive.

Rodney Gutenberger made a motion to adjourn the Public Budget Hearing, 2nd by Larry Simon; all ayes, motion carried.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS

Kathy Pophal made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting of Electors, 2nd by Rick Neumann; all ayes, motion carried.

The Board did not discuss budgeting for Moritzville. Chairman Mike Hass explained the problem is that Kyle Eggersgluess's easement is on the road, the road is curved, and it should be a 90-degree turn. Mike talked to the WI Town's Assoc. (WTA) lawyer, and she said that because we don't maintain it, the landowner does, we wouldn't have a leg to stand on. Tony Baumann thinks that we should get a lawyer so that this doesn't happen again, and we should get estimates from a couple of places for the cost.

Larry Simon made a motion to budget \$50,000 to be used for Moritzville and add that to the total under Highway Maintenance, 2nd by Kathy Pophal; all ayes, motion carried.

2024 Levy (Payable in 2025)

Chairman Mike Hass explained that without the ARPA money, we now must pay for the fire contract. This will not happen this year, but Mike wants people to be aware of it happening for next year. Scott Streich suggested using the extra money from the assessments to pay for it. The Township does not receive that much back from that. Mike Hass proposed a levy per \$100,000 value of home \$45. Tony Baumann commented that he would be in favor of getting it done sooner than later, and suggested, per \$100,000 value of home \$20. Chairman Mike Hass said we are only bringing this to everyone's attention, not to vote on it tonight. We can call a special meeting of Electors or discuss this again at the April meeting of Electors. This would show up in the 2025 tax levy bill to be paid in 2026.

Motion was made by Russ Parratta to adopt the 2024 Levy (Payable in 2025) of \$305,399, 2nd by Rodney Gutenberger; all ayes, motion carried.

Motion made by Larry Simon to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Kathy Pophal; all ayes, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk

