

**TOWN BOARD OF CABLE  
BUDGET WORK MEETING  
Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
Town Hall Office – 4:00 p.m.  
MINUTES**

**Attending:** Chairman Brett Rondeau, Supervisors Jack Radecki and Tony Merrill; Deputy Clerk Tammy Rasmussen, Clerk Deanne Allen, Treasurer Lori Lang, and Road Foreman Bob Lang.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Rondeau called the budget work meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Clerk's Report**

The following information was presented to the Board:

- A compliment letter from Betty Rasmussen on work done by the road crew.
- Cleaning materials brought by Artist Donna Post for the new mural to use when needed with instructions.
- Opinion from Attorney Scott Clark on the vacation process for allowing permanent bike trails through cemetery property or a permit process for temporary trails.
- Email from Scott Clark re trails if not permanent
- Draft ordinance to prohibit keeping livestock and poultry in Section 18.
- Information on national opiate litigation.

**Discussion/Possible Action to Approve Jeanne Dixon as Secretary to Plan Commission, Effective Immediately**

MOTION by Supervisor Radecki, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to appoint Jeanne Dixon as Secretary to the Plan Commission, effective immediately.

MOTION carried.

**Review of 2020 Budget Proposal**

The following documents were reviewed by the Board:

- Budget Request from Plan Commission
- Budget Request from Connect Communities
- Budget Request from Great Divide
- Letter Regarding compensation from Jason Swanson
- Minutes from Town Board meeting of December 13, 2019, explaining employee compensation in 2019, and a change in policy for health insurance to be incorporated into the Employee Handbook
- A comparison chart for wage increases for Town of Cable employees based on 3% and 4%. In 2019 employees received a 2% increase but actually lost income with the Board's change in health insurance policy to pay \$750 or up to 25% into an HSA account for the family deductible of \$6,000 instead of the previous policy of paying 50%. The town continued to pay 100% of the health insurance premium. Current insurance rates are not known, but Security Health has indicated at least a 10% increase in premiums. At the last meeting the

Board indicated interest in reducing the Town contribution to 80% with 20% paid by employees.

Using the same deductible option as in 2019, \$3,000/single deductible and \$6,000/family deductible, the total premium per month was \$4081.23. A 10% increase would mean a total monthly premium of \$4,489.35 in 2020, totaling \$53,872.20 for the year. If the Board adopts a policy for the cost to be split 80/20, as proposed at the last meeting, the employee share for the premium would be \$10,774.44 annually; the town share would be \$43,097.76. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the board to adopt a 90/10 split in premium costs with employees.

The Board had asked for comparison data on wages and benefits. A Benefits Survey was sent to 10 towns of which 7 responded. A spreadsheet was created to show a comparison of wages and health benefits among the 7 towns and Cable. This spreadsheet was presented to the Board.

Deputy Clerk Rasmussen reviewed the updated budget worksheet with the Board. Account numbers have been changed to align with the CT Report. The town will receive \$2,628 per mile in transportation aid. A notice from the Department of Transportation indicates that Cable will receive \$203,749 based on 77.53 miles of road. Money was budgeted for a PA system, but Board members decided to use those funds to update the cameras at the park.

The following items were noted:

- The Ambulance Department requested the same allotment as last year but will be using reserve funds. A significant increase will be requested for 2021.
- The Fire Department has requested an increase of \$8,000 to their allotment--\$4,000 to rewire the fire hall and \$4,000 to repair the old well at the old fire hall.
- Eliminated the proposed sidewalk from the municipal parking lot to connect to the sidewalk in front of the UCC church.
- Solid waste disposal includes adding another dumpster due to the new restricted recycling regulations.
- It was the consensus of the board to raise rates for a cemetery plot to \$500. Wisconsin Statutes require a cemetery ordinance, which will be drafted.
- The Forest Lodge Library allotment as determined by Bayfield County is \$41,578.00. In 2019, the town gave the library \$43,700. The library has requested the same amount as 2019 be given in 2020. No determination was made.
- The amount of \$5000 was added to the park for new cameras and gravel on the parking lot and two access roads to the cemetery.
- A patriotic program will be planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, and there will be a fire truck siren at the end of the fireworks.
- Two new contingency funds were added--\$5,000 for a new election machine in 2021; and \$10,000 in General Contingency for special projects, including Connect Communities projects.

The Board spent some time discussing the possibility of shifting emergency service costs to property tax statements. Information will be requested from the Wisconsin Towns Association on this process. This will also be added to the 4-towns meeting agenda.

**Other Issues**

There were none.

**Next Budget Meeting**

Chairman Rondeau stated that he will email possible dates to schedule the next budget meeting.

**Next Regular Meeting: October 16, 2019**

**Adjournment**

Chairman Rondeau declared the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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Approved October 16, 2019