

The Board of Supervisors Budget/Salary meeting of the Town of Fredenberg, Minnesota, St. Louis County was held in the Fredenberg Town Hall on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 8:14 PM.

Board members present: Chair Jim Ray, Supervisors Clay Cich (Zoom), Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, and Tim Wagner. Also, Treasurer Pam Blekestad and Clerk Ellen Hanson.

Others in Attendance: There were 3 others in attendance and 8 via Zoom.

This meeting was held in-person with a ZOOM connection.

- 1. Call to order the Budget/Salary meeting at 8:14 PM:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Ray at 8:14 PM.
- 2. Approve the Agenda**
 - There was a motion by Supervisor Rapp to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Supervisor Cich. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Proposed Levy**
 - The Board had a discussion on the past levies and the proposed 2023 levy. The goal is to lower the levy. The proposed 2023 fund amounts are: General fund: \$49,133; Town building: \$15,000; Fire Department: \$99,000; Cemetery: \$1,400; Parks & Recreation: \$10,000; Roads & Bridges: \$150,000; Fire Hall Bond: \$60,000; total \$384,533. There was a motion by Chair Ray to reduce the levy by 1.5% by reducing the General Fund to \$49,133 and seconded by Supervisor Cich. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
 - After the discussion with the Fire Chief and granting a proposed increase in the Fire department levy to \$102,900 there was discussion on the fund to be reduced. There was a motion by Chair Ray to reduce the proposed 2023 General fund levy by \$3,900 (\$45,233) and seconded by Supervisor Pawlowicz. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Salary/Wages**
 - The Board had a discussion on employee wage increases for 2022. There was a motion by Supervisor Pawlowicz to increase the meeting fee to \$80 for all employees including the Clerk, and the Chair will increase to \$90 for meeting fee and seconded by Supervisor Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
 - There was a motion by Chair Ray to raise all wages across the board by 3% for hourly positions except the Treasurer and seconded by Supervisor Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
 - There was a motion by Chair Ray to raise the Treasurers hourly wage to \$21 and seconded by Supervisor Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
- 9. Open Forum**
 - Fire Chief Linda Bergstrand asked for a 5% increase for the 2023 Fire Department levy due to increasing operating expenses.
 - There was a motion by Chair Ray to increase the Fire Department 2023 base levy by 5% (\$3,900) and seconded by Supervisor Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.
 - Fire Chief Bergstrand reported the department had applied for a FEMA grant. The request was for 12 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and 18 sets of turn out gear for a total of \$197,000.
- 10. Adjourn**

- a. There was a motion by Chair Ray to adjourn meeting at 9:17 PM and seconded Supervisor Pawlowicz. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmative. This motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Hanson
Clerk



James Ray
Board Chair