

SPECIAL SESSION

December 16, 2014

Village President, Jack Fennell, called the special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees to order at 7:00p.m. Trustees present were Colleen Slane, Jack Esterdahl, Sheila Taylor, and Dan Langan.

Jack Fennell opened the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. Jack Fennell addressed the board with the reasons for the proposed tax rate increase. The rising healthcare costs, retirement contributions, and the cost of upgrading the sewer system have demanded for an increase in the village tax rate. Tad Mrazek, of Dunlap, questioned the tax rate increase and asked if this will be proposed again next year. Jack Esterdahl stated that the current board is fiscally conservative, and won't raise taxes more than needed. Sheila Taylor asked what tax rate the village is looking to maintain. Dwight Johnson answered that the Village tax rate has gone down every year since 2005, and this tax levy is bringing the tax rate back to where it was at that time. Jack Esterdahl asked if there would be the need to raise taxes again for the lagoon expansion project. Dwight Johnson said that although the village will not be eligible for an EPA grant, an increase in water rates should take care of the project costs. Sheila Taylor and Jack Esterdahl voiced concern for residents getting hit with two rate increases in the same year. Sheila Taylor went on to ask about line items on the list of appropriations. Discussion followed. Jack Fennell closed the Public Hearing as all questions had been asked and answered. Colleen Slane made a motion to approve Ordinance 14-20, Tax Levy Ordinance. No second was heard.

Sheila Taylor said that knowing we will see an increase in water and sewer rates, she wants to see where the proposed increase in revenue will be spent. Dwight Johnson led a review and comparison of the appropriation ordinances from 2014, and 2015. The increase in tax rate will give the village an additional \$14,000 in revenue. Sheila Taylor said that when comparing an increase in water/sewer rates versus tax rates, it seems more fair to raise water/sewer rates since payment for water/sewer is based on usage. She also stated that she understands the village's need to raise tax rates. Colleen Slane repeated her motion to approve Ordinance 14-20, Tax Levy Ordinance. Jack Esterdahl seconded the motion. Roll call vote- all approved. Motion carried.

Dan Langan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Colleen Slane seconded the motion. Roll call vote- all approved. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47p.m.

Dated January 14, 2015

Tracy N. Korger, Dunlap Village Clerk

