

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN
MEETING
Wednesday, October 22, 2008
7:00 PM
At the Vernon Town Hall
W249 S8910 Center Drive**

1. Welcome by the Town Chairperson. Chairman Paff welcomed everyone to tonight's Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting.
2. Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence. Chairman Paff led the public in the pledge to the flag and asked the public to remain standing for a moment of silence.
3. Open Meeting Law Compliance Check. Chairman Paff asked the Clerk if the agenda was properly noticed. Clerk Nelson stated the Town of Vernon is in compliance pursuant to the open meetings law requirement.
4. Read The Public Notice. Chairman Paff read the Public Notice.
5. Chairperson Paff states the procedure of hearing to be held.

Chairperson Paff stated the procedure of hearing to be held as follows. The Town Auditor Wendy Unger from Virchow/Krause will give the 2009 Budget Presentation. Chairperson Paff stated he will then open the Public Hearing on the proposed 2009 Budget at which time the residents of the town will be able to ask questions about the proposed budget. He asked the public to raise their hand and he will work his way from the front to the back as best he can. He stated to please step up to the microphone and state your name and address for the record. He stated if you have asked a question; please don't raise your hand until everyone has had a chance to ask a question. He stated he will continue this process as long as it takes. Chairperson Paff stated when all questions have been addressed; he will close the Public Hearing, and call the Special Town Meeting to order. Chairperson Paff stated the town is on the honor system so he asked that if you are not a town resident that you not vote. He stated for voting he will ask that all in favor raise their hand and keep them up until all have been counted. He asked the Clerk and Supervisors to each count the votes to compare and make sure it is accurate. He stated he will then ask all opposed to raise their hand and will count them. He stated the procedure for the agenda items will be this, he will ask the Clerk to read the Motion. He will then ask if someone would like to make that Motion and if someone would like to second that Motion. Chairperson Paff asked please to state your name when making or seconding a motion. He stated the Board will then have discussion using the same format as the Public Hearing. He stated an amendment may be made to the motion at any time when someone has the floor and if seconded, it will be discussed and voted on before continuing with discussion on the original motion. He stated once discussion on the original motion is complete he will ask for the vote. He stated first there will be Discussion and Action on the total Highway Expenditure. Second will be Discussion and Action to Set Compensation for the Elected Officials. He stated third will be Discussion and Action on the 2008 Town Tax Levy. He asked for the same procedure for all the discussion, as far as letting everyone have a chance to ask a question before anyone asks a second question. He stated last will be Adjournment of the Special Town Meeting. He asked if there where any questions on this procedure?

6. Town Auditor gives 2009 Budget presentation.

Town Auditor Wendi Unger presented the 2009 Budget to the public.

Clerk's Note: Proposed 2009 Budget Highlights is attached to the minutes.

7. Open Public Hearing on proposed 2009 Budget.

Chairman Paff opened the public hearing at 7:20 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Goff, W250S9005 Center Dr, stated there is no date on the budget document and it is not

signed he would like to know why.

Al Kunert, S75W23800 Vernon Hills Dr, asked on the undesignated funds the auditors recommendation should be at 10-25%, the Town is at 8% how will the Board rectify this. Chairperson Paff stated the Town will not be using all of the \$143,000 designated in 2008, which should bring the percentage to 10%. He asked about the decrease in the Fire Department budget. Chairman Paff stated there was less capital expenditures for 2009.

Rodell Singert, W254S7890 Hilo Dr, stated he is compelled to defend Jerry Goff, if this is an audit report it should be dated and signed. He stated he felt there could have been more information in the summary. He stated the report should have been numbered 1 through 20 so the page could be referenced when asking a question.

Tom Bird, S67W24325 Skyline Ave, stated he will not say anything about the way the document was prepared. He asked to turn to page one, and asked about the \$143,000 and why it is not showing on the budget highlights. He asked for clarification on the Workers Compensation. Chairman Paff explained to the public the Workers Compensation. Tom Bird asked for clarification on the election salaries. Clerk Nelson and Chairperson Paff explained the different brackets in the budget. He stated his last question was on storm water. He stated in 2007 there was \$60,000 in revenue and \$60,000 in expenditures in 2008 there was \$124,000 in revenue and \$122,855 in the professional, could this be explained. Chairperson Paff and Clerk Nelson explained to the public the storm water process.

Jerry Goff, W250S90005 Center Dr, stated there are three different line items for the recreation department he would like the amounts explained. Supervisor Ludwig and Clerk Nelson explained to the public the recreation department budget.

Bill Craig W232S8545 Chateau Ln, stated he would like to bring up the storm water issue, he understands this is a state mandate and is unfunded. He stated he would like to know who is required since the Town is not in a storm water district per say and is a long ways from the metro system it seems odd that we should be going forward with this with out questioning it more. He stated he has asked the engineer information and has not heard anything. Chairman Paff explained to Mr. Craig this is all new and the Town might not need anymore money. Chairperson Paff stated he can invite the Town Engineer to the next board meeting to give a better explanation. Chairperson Paff explained the Planner fees and attorney fees. Bill Craig asked about committee fees that have increased. Chairman Paff explained the increase. Bill Craig stated he was on the wage committee; there were no recommendations to the Board. He stated that the Town needs to cut back on benefits and wages and have higher co pays.

Rodell Singert W254S7890 Hilo Dr, stated the Town needs to reduce spending and 2.01 tax rates is not an acceptable rate. He stated he was in a state that had a surplus. He stated the State of Wisconsin cannot keep borrowing money. He commented on the Town legal fees need to be reduced and the levy needs to be dropped. He stated legal fees are way over the line at \$65,000.

Bill Craig W232S8545 Chateau Ln, stated the 2008 assessed value is incorrect and needs to be fixed. The amount is off by \$9.00.

Shirley Goff, W250S90005 Center Dr, asked about the clerk insurance and the reason for the increase. Clerk Nelson explained the then increase to Shirley Goff.

Sherri Wolfmeyer, W245S7420 Heather Ridge Dr, stated that she deals with budgets all the time and the fact that the Town has a balanced budget and our tax rate has not gone up in years is great. She stated that someone commented on reducing benefits and pay for the employees because there are other people out there to work. She stated that is not true, she has been interviewing and there are not qualified people the Town has good employees and should keep them. She commented on the little things that people are complaining about, she stated this is a good budget and it is time to move on and not bicker on petty items.

8. Close Public Hearing on proposed 2009 Budget.

Chairman Paff closed the public hearing at 8:25 p.m.

9. Call Special Town Meeting to order.

Chairman Paff called the Special Town Meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

10. Discussion and action on the total 2009 highway expenditures pursuant to Section 81.01 (3) of the WI Stats.

MOTION Al Kunert moved to approve the 2009 highway expenditures not to exceed \$935,394, seconded by Robin Faust.

Jerry Goff W250S90005 Center Dr would like to amend the motion and would like to cut back with a 10% or \$841,854.60, seconded by Tom Bird.

Paul Herrenbruck, W275S8450 Lakeview Ln, stated he has been on the DPW Committee in the past and present and the Highway budget is a shoe string budget and does not feel it is possible to cut the budget. He stated he would like to speak for his area and the men of the Department of Public Works had done a tremendous job this past winter.

Judy Porter, S103W26370 Maple Ave, stated she just had her road redone and new car was full of oil from it. She stated the Town was back repairing it, isn't that doubling expenditures.

Sherri Wolfmeyer, W245S7420 Heather Ridge Dr asked were does this 10% come off of if the budget is cut. Supervisor Finch stated this budget is balanced and would be irresponsible to change anything. Sherri Wolfmeyer stated she agrees with Supervisor Finch, you can't just cut \$100,000 from a budget and not explain where it comes from and still keep the same level of service that the Town has.

Rodell Singert, W254 S7890, Hilo Dr, stated the amended motion might have been excessive but if the Town is asked to cut spending by line items from the public that he had given examples of it should be looked at. He stated he strongly disagrees and the 10% is too high and the Town should look at a spending cut. Chairman Paff asked if the School Board budget will be cut down also. Rodell Singert stated the school levy was voted on and the Towns levy is 4.35% and 7.87% tax rate that is a .23 cent increase at a 2.95% increase. Chairman Paff stated this is a good budget. The board and Rodell Singert reviewed the School budget numbers versus the Town of Vernon numbers.

Yay – 14

Nay - 26

Motion fails.

Rodell Singert moved to amend highway budget reduction by 2%, seconded by Tom Bird,

Yay - 19

Nay – 21

Motion fails.

Al Kunert asked to move back to the original motion on the floor to approve the 2009 highway expenditures as presented.

MOTION AI Kunert moved to approve the 2009 highway expenditures not to exceed \$935,394, seconded by Robin Faust, motion carried.

Yay – 20

Nay - 16

11. Discussion and action to set compensation for the Elected Officials to be elected on April 7, 2009 for the term from April 15, 2009 to April 12, 2011 pursuant to Section 60.32 of the WI Stats. (Chairman, Supervisors #2 & #4, Treasurer & Clerk).

MOTION AI Kunert moved to keep Chairperson Salary at the current salary of \$10,115 per year, seconded by Dave Link, motion carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION Sandy Porter moved to keep Supervisors #2 and #4 salary at the current salary of \$5,606 per year, seconded by Dave Link , motion carried by majority vote.

MOTION Ron Westfahl moved to approve the Treasurer salary of \$16,341 per year, seconded by AI Kunert , motion carried by majority vote.

MOTION Ron Westfahl moved to approve the Clerk salary of \$43,712 per year, seconded by Robin Faust, motion carried by majority vote.

12. Discussion and action on the 2008 Town tax levy to be paid in 2009 pursuant to Section 60.10 (1) (a) of the WI Stats.

MOTION AI Kunert moved to set the Total 2009 Levy at a cost not to exceed \$1,674,301, seconded by Doug Salentine, motion carried by majority vote.

Yay 22

Nay – 12

Rodell Singert stated he would like to have seen a reduction on debt service levy and \$290,000 and expenditures in the legal services, he stated the budget could be reduced by \$50,000 and feels could be reduced by more than that.

13. Adjournment of Special Town Meeting.

MOTION Rodell Singert moved to adjourn the Special Town meeting seconded by, AI Kunert, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Jamie Nelson, Clerk
Town of Vernon
Waukesha County

APPROVED:

As printed ()

With amendments ()

Brian Paff, Chairperson

Date: _____