

TOWN OF MISHICOT BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
MISHICOT TOWN HALL
710 NORTH STATE STREET
MISHICOT, WISCONSIN

**NOVEMBER 18, 2024 - BUDGET HEARING, SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AND SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Present for the board at the Budget Hearing, Special Town Meeting of the Electors, and Special Town Board Meeting were Lee Stefaniak, Robert DesJarlais, Dean Anhalt, Tammy Thielbar and Connie Tesarik. Several citizens of the town were also present.

BUDGET HEARING:

Chairman Stefaniak called the budget hearing to order at 6:20 p.m. The 2025 Budget was presented. **With no comments by the public, Supervisor DeJarlais made a motion to adjourn the hearing at 6:21 p.m. Supervisor Anhalt seconded the motion. Motion carried. All votes in favor. Hearing adjourned.**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

Chairman Stefaniak called the Special Town Meeting of the Electors to order at 6:21 p.m.

ELECTORS TO CONSIDER LEVY EXCEEDANCE OF \$200,000

Supervisor Anhalt explained that at the Annual Meeting of the Town in April a request was made by two citizens that the town board pursue a levy exceedance of \$200,000 as soon as possible in order to fund more road improvements. This was the second such request made by the citizens; and, as such, the board agreed to pursue the request. The process to request for levy exceedance is the same as the process used in 2019. The town board is not able to increase the taxes levied without the permission of the town citizens. Mr. Anhalt further explained that even the addition of another \$200,000 would not be enough to do all that is needed to fix all of the roads. The board does attempt to obtain more funding by way of grants and lobbying for more funds from the state, but there is great competition for the grants. Supervisor Anhalt has written grants for the town and knows that those reviewing the applications are looking for very specific issues and seem to prefer more urban areas. Supervisor Anhalt was successful in obtaining a BIL grant to help fund the Samz Road, which is a \$1.8 million project. This project is a joint project between the town and village. While there are surpluses in the State, it is nearly impossible to get more money from the upper levels of government. The counties and cities receive a much larger share of the available funds, with the local governments left at the bottom.

Former Town Chairperson Chuck Hoffman stated that we are not maintaining the roads as we need to. He commented that chip sealing is a waste of money on broken roads. Mr. Hoffman urged the citizens to vote for the additional \$200,000 in tax levy for road improvements.

Brian Benzinger presented dollar amounts spent by the state for highways, \$138 million in the fourth quarter, and wanted to know how the town could get some of that money. Supervisor DesJarlais explained that the way to do that is through your legislators.

Rick Valenta stated that \$150 million is available for ARIP, which is an agricultural-related road grant. He said there were \$250 million in applications for that money.

Several citizens spoke concerning the sufficiency of the work that is currently being done. There is a greater need for better base under the roads. Mark Wilcox asked what the town's plan is. Supervisor Anhalt said that wedging and chip sealing is all we can afford to do at this time.

Chairman Stefaniak read the motion needed. The Town Electors are to consider the adoption of Resolution 2024-3 the town meeting endorsing a town board resolution which proposes that the town levy exceed the state allowable levy limit under S. 66.0602 of Wis. Statutes, specifically a proposed tax levy which would exceed the allowable town tax levy for 2024 collected in 2025, after adjustments, by 58.151 percent which would be a dollar increase of \$200,000. **Chuck Hoffman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-3 endorsing a town board resolution which proposes that the town levy exceed the state allowable levy limit under S. 66.0602 of Wis. Statutes, specifically a proposed tax levy which would exceed the allowable town tax levy for 2024 and collected in 2025, after adjustments, by 58.151 percent which would be a dollar increase of \$200,000. Kelly Gretz seconded the motion. A paper vote was taken and tallied by Amy Horstman and Connie Kunz, the Chief Election Inspectors of the Town of Mishicot.**

It is noted here that there was an issue with votes having been cast and collected before the meeting. The error was discovered prior to the meeting being called to order. Those ballots were removed and quarantined until legal counsel could be consulted as to their validity. The meeting continued with proper procedure with a paper ballot vote by those who had not yet voted and taken after the motion and discussion. The paper votes were placed into a ballot box and counted by Ms. Horstman and Ms. Kunz. The votes counted were as follows: 35 Votes Against; 16 Votes in Favor. Motion failed. The request to increase the levy \$200,000 was unsuccessful. It is further noted here that counting the quarantined ballots would not have changed the outcome. Per legal counsel consultation, the ballots cast before the meeting are invalid.

ELECTORS TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE 2024 TAX LEVY
COLLECTED IN 2025

With the final vote unknown at the meeting, it was not possible to adopt the town levy.

Mike Koepfel moved to adjourn the special town meeting at 7:09 p.m. Cory Augustine seconded the motion. All votes in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING:

2025 SUMMARY BUDGET

Due to not knowing what the actual levy will be at the time of this meeting, the town board was not able to adopt the 2025 Summary Budget.

At the Annual Meeting in April, electors gave permission to the Town Board to set the levy for 2024, collected in 2025 (this was granted with no increase in levy). Having since discovered the vote outcome and with the 2024 levy to be collected in 2025 currently being \$343,936, the board will hold a board meeting at a later date to adopt the current levy and to adopt the 2025 Summary Budget.

These minutes were taken at the Budget Hearing and Special Town Meeting of the Electors on November 18, 2024, and recorded here on November 19, 2024, by:

Connie Tesarik – Clerk