



**TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE, SAWYER CO, WI
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING 11-17-11**

The Town of Spider Lake Budget Hearing was called to order by Town Chair Hucker at 6:00 PM. Present were Hucker, Brandt, McGuiness, Meyer, Cerman, Treasurer Overman, Clerk Ferda and eight electors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Hucker noted that the proposed 2012 budget had been posted in three places and published in the Sawyer County Record.

Hucker explained the 2011 amended budget. The total budget remained the same, however line item amounts were increased or decreased to reflect unforeseen expenses, a new furnace and stove for the town hall and the increased cost of fuel and propane this year in the Road budget.

Hucker explained that the state legislature has made changes in how the towns receive payments and grants. The town's shared revenue aids will be cut by \$500.00 in 2012. At this time, the road aids are solid and the town will receive \$206,651.00 next year. What lies ahead in the future for road aids is unknown at this time, but it could significantly impact the 2013 budget.

Hucker explained the \$80,000.00 line item in the Capital Outlay – Fire line item. The 1984 fire truck needs to be replaced because its pump can no longer be certified. An estimated cost of \$80,000.00 has been budgeted. Being considered for purchase is a brush truck with a smaller tank capacity, but it will have more sophisticated equipment in terms of foaming capacity. A good portion of the money that will pay for the truck is coming from reserves built up over the last several years.

Having to purchase a new fire truck has impacted the Roads budget for next year. \$130,000.00 has been budgeted for road construction and maintenance. The reconstruction of Brandt Road will be the only road project next year and due to budget constraints, only a portion will be completed. Reconstruction is estimated at \$84,000.00 per mile. Hucker and McGuiness have attended meetings regarding road grants. Due to the town receiving road grant monies from 2000-2005, the town is ranked 16 out of 16 to receive any grant money for the next two or three years. Hucker looked at an alternative statewide grant program but the town's immediate road projects did not qualify as there are no safety issues, collapsing bridges, etc. Gary Reynolds asked whether or not the town could look into alternative paving methods.

Hucker advised that the Ghost Lake Dam inspection went reasonably well. Extensive brush removal and tree cutting must be done on the toe of the dam to make sure the spillway is protected. A survey which will create additional benchmarks must be done. These projects will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

Base wages for the road crew will remain the same as 2011. The road crew will contribute 5% more next year for their health insurance premiums. Their total contribution will be 10%. In order for the town to continue offering deferred compensation to the road crew, the town must offer it to every employee, elected official and appointed official on a voluntary basis. A resolution needs to be adopted to cover all persons. The town board will discuss making some contributions to the fund on behalf of any full time employees. There will be no increase in salary for Road Supervisor McGuiness.

The goal for the solid waste budget is to break even.

The debt service budget will cover the first payment for the grader and loader equipment purchased last year.

Questions and comments were taken from electors present at the hearing.

Motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing was made by Meyer and 2nd by McGuiness. All in favor. Motion carried.

Christine Ferda
Clerk