

VILLAGE OF EAGLE
UNAPPROVED PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET MINUTES
November 14, 2013

The Village Board meeting was called to order by President Spurrell on November 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Open meeting law requirements were confirmed as having been met. Roll Call: Trustees Neuburg, Schoessow, Jones, Rice, Scheff, and President, Rich Spurrell. Absent and excused was Katy Degenhardt. Also present were Treasurer, Darlene Sterzinger, Police Chief Ehlers, Fire Chief Heim, and several residents.

President Spurrell announced that there were minor changes made to the budget after the Joint Town and Village budget meeting held on November 6, 2013. He stated the following:

The Municipal Building budget is now \$13,405 rather than \$11,405.
Under the Public Safety, Fire Protection is \$63,455, down from \$64,492.
Recreation and Education, Library is \$59,510 down from \$62,028.
Fire Station is \$11,789 rather than \$10,764
Park/Recreation Programs was \$22,500 is now \$24,900.

The net effect of the changes went from a balanced budget to a deficit of \$1,870. President Spurrell opened up the floor for the public hearing.

Sharon Royston, 330 Appletree Lane questioned why the rent line item was at zero under the police expenses. President Spurrell explained that the amount is now incorporated in the police budget under utility services. It is no longer a separate line item. Royston asked if it could be a separate item since it has been for several years.

There were no other public comments, but President Spurrell left the public hearing open in case residents would come in.

Question was asked regarding tax rates. Spurrell explained that it was to be part of the Regular Board meeting, but he took the opportunity to explain the approval of the budget and tax levy and tax rates. Due to the fact that the equalized value has dropped a bit this year (\$154,267,377.) the general consensus of the Board was to not increase taxes. He then explained the difference between tax levy and tax rates. Tax levy is the amount of taxes collected; the tax rate is the percentage of the value of the house. If the tax rate is held, then the tax levy will decrease.

A discussion followed. President Spurrell stated that even though the Board may say taxes will not go up, the charges from the garbage collection and the school districts are going up. So there will be some increase on the tax bill, but the Board has no control over those amounts. More discussion followed including where more cuts could be made. Trustee Rice said that he is against raising the tax rate, which would mean cutting \$3,365. He suggested that some of it be taken from the street maintenance future projects account. Royston wondered if cuts could be made from the police department. Trustee Scheff asked if the Fire Department budget could be adjusted. It was pointed out that the Fire, Library and Recreation departments were approved at the Joint meeting, and would be difficult to change. Trustee Rice cautioned about increasing taxes, and how a few years ago we dumped the garbage charges on as a special charge. We have to live within our means.

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President Spurrell was doing calculations with salaries and found that by using a 1.5% factor, rather than the 3.6%, there would be a surplus of \$116.00. Trustee Rice recommended putting the surplus into reserve and Scheff agreed. Spurrell reported that the reserve would be \$11,543.00 and the budget is balanced again.

Adjournment

President Spurrell declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Sterzinger, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk