

MILLE LACS COUNTY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 5, 2017

These are summary minutes only, per MN Statute 375.12. Full text of meeting minutes is available for public inspection at the Administrative Services Office, located at 635 2nd St SE, Milaca, MN and may also be viewed on the County's website: www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us.

Chairman Tellinghuisen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present: Commissioners Wilhelm, Reynolds, Oslin, and Peterson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

County Administrator Oman presented the 2018 proposed budget and levy including a review of the General Government, Public Safety, Public Works and Community and Veteran Services department budgets. Cmsr Tellinghuisen opened up the meeting to public comment following the presentation at 6:40 p.m.

County Administrator Pat Oman outlined the meeting agenda and format of the meeting. County Administrator Oman introduced the department heads that were present at the meeting; Personnel Director Holly Wilson, County Engineer Bruce Cochran, County Auditor-Treasurer Phil Thompson, County Assessor Al Heim, CVS Director Beth Crook and Soil and Water District Administrator Susan Shaw.

A resident from Page Township questioned the property tax rates for Page Township and the evaluation rates for their properties. The resident stated that on the township road 220th Street that from the flood two years ago the road was never completely fixed where it was washed out. The resident is disputing her property tax increase.

A resident from Bogus Brook Township addressed the Board. The resident agreed that the County Board salaries should be increased as it will also attract high quality candidates. The next item the resident discussed was general public hearings stating that having the ability to speak in front of the Board is very important to the public and would like to see more of it during regular County Board meetings. The resident asked for the County Boards perspective on the revoking of the 2008 Cooperative Agreement with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the financial impact and the benefit of it. County Administrator Oman stated all the information is on the County website in regards to the revoking of the 2008 Cooperative Agreement. County Administrator Oman reviewed there was an investment made in 2016 to increase the number of County Deputies. The number has not increased, but has remained a consistent expense.

County Administrator Oman reviewed that the Board will review the public input along with any changes that they may have at the December 12, 2017 Special Board meeting. The final 2018 budget will be reviewed at the December 19, 2017 Regular Board meeting for final approval.

Adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
(Peterson, Wilhelm 5-0)

ATTEST: Pat Oman
County Administrator
Roger Tellinghuisen
County Board Chairman

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