

The Town of Champion Town Board met on September 28, 2020 to develop and finalize the 2021 preliminary budget. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Waite and Gump, Highway Superintendent Strife, and Donna Martel, Clerk to the Supervisor.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. D. Martel read and discussed the 2021 Preliminary Budget Notes, salaries and hourly rates. H. Watkins recommended a salary increase for the Supervisor citing the responsibilities and hours committed to the position. Supervisor Ferguson declined the increase. D. Martel noted a proposed increase in the part time MEO hourly rate citing competition for drivers with commercial licenses.

D. Martel reported a reduction in the amount of sales tax used to balance the budget. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the reduction is prudent based on the unknown impact of the pandemic and reductions in State funding.

L. Waite asked for a clarification of line item A1620.41. D. Martel stated that \$7,500 has been budgeted for the maintenance of the West Carthage Fire Department – Champion Substation.

Based on increased costs to the Town for disposal of recyclables, Supervisor Ferguson recommended a \$.50 per bag increase for trash disposal effective January 1, 2021. The increase would increase the per bag fee to \$3.00.

D. Martel stated that the town tax rate would remain steady at \$3.50/\$1,000 taxable value.

Motion by Supervisor Ferguson, seconded by T. Stewart to adopt the tentative budget as the 2021 Preliminary budget and hold a public hearing on the budget on October 5, 2020 at 7:00pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Ferguson, seconded by T. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Christina Vargulick

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Town Clerk