

# TOWN OF ARCADIA

Trempealeau County



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Ronald Tuschner, Chairman (608) 323-3035

Ivan Pronschinske, Supervisor No. 2 (608) 323-7675

Michael Chitko, Supervisor No. 1 (608) 323-2414

Nancy Rohn, Town Treasurer (608) 323-7063

## Town of Arcadia Minutes of Special Town Meeting on the Proposed 2015 Budget Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The special town meeting was called to order by Chairman Ronald Tuschner at 7:55 p.m. Open meeting certifications were met. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Chairman Ronald Tuschner and Supervisors Michael Chitko and Ivan Pronschinske. Also present were the attached list of residents.

Beth Killian explained the levy limit worksheet and its procedure; including the annexation questions. Those annexation amounts will not take effect until the next year's budget cycle. The original levy was set at \$379,869, but we could add the \$34,071 for the road use agreement from the City of Independence. This changes our allowable levy to \$413,940. The budget was based on the original amount; now we have an additional \$34,071 to add to the budget. This will be designated by the Board. The intergovernmental agreement gets added to the levy. Nancy Rohn stated that the mill rate for the Town of Arcadia would be 0.003383735. Last year's mill rate was 0.003579588. A motion was made by M. Chitko and seconded by I. Pronschinske to set the levy for 2015 as \$413,940. The motion was carried unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Killian gave the monthly rate for Board members: Supervisors receive \$14.58 per month and the Chairman receives \$29.17 per month, plus government rate for mileage of \$.56, plus per diem of \$40.00 per meeting. The per diem of \$40.00 is for 3 hours; after 3 hours the per diem is \$80.00. Research was done on surrounding Towns. Karen Geske asked when this increase would take effect. I. Pronschinske stated that it would be effective at the April, 2015 election. The proposal was \$5,000 for the Chairman and \$3,000 for the Supervisors for the year plus the mileage plus the per diem, which would remain the same. The Chairman would be \$520 per month and the Supervisors would be \$250 per month. Discussion was held on the surrounding Towns and comparable salaries/averages; the amount of hours spent on Town business; set the salary of \$5,000 and \$3,000; mileage and monthly board time sheets; and use of personal vehicles and liability (personal insurance is primary and Town insurance is secondary). A motion was made by Chad Rossa and seconded by Renee Suchla to approve the board salaries at \$5,000 for the Chairman and \$3,000 for the Supervisors plus mileage and per diem of \$40.00. The motion was carried unanimously with a voice vote. The board members abstained from the vote.

The Clerk/Treasurer salary was discussed. B. Killian stated that the budgeted amount is \$35,000. R. Tuschner talked about the credentials set up by the Board that they should have to fill the position. The wages are compensatory to the individual coming in. He gave examples of experience. Those people should be worth more in salary than someone that has no experience. Nancy Rohn stated that this is an elected position. If a person is working full time, and they are contemplating running for the position, they would need to have some idea of what the salary would be before they decide they would quit the job they have and run for this position. Discussion continued on hiring versus elected position. K. Geske asked about the number of hours. B. Killian interjected that if you are elected, you set your own hours. K. Geske talked about the insurance that needs to be provided if you have 30 or more hours. R. Tuschner stated that this depends on the number of employees that you have. C. Rossa wanted to make a motion that the Board has the right to set the wages; you can find the \$35,000, but don't have to give that amount. Several people said that this can't be done this way. B. Killian stated that according to State Statutes the electors are authorized to vote on the elected officers pay. C. Rossa stated that the electors can set the boundaries of the pay and the Board can where it must begin. M. Chitko stated that this cannot be done. B. Killian gave some examples of what the electors could set as the pay. The electors must set the pay. Discussion continued on the current salaries. B. Killian stated that the elected position decides the number of hours and the electorate decides the amount of pay. Elva Helwig gave

an example of a Clerk/Treasurer position's hours and salary. Currently the Treasurer receives her salary and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk share the Clerk's salary. There is no insurance involved since this is an elected position. Darlene Rossa asked for the Board's opinions. R. Tuschner stated that we need someone in here 35 to 40 hours per week; peak times may need additional hours; and if the job is not being done the Board can appoint someone and this will be in excess of the salary. N. Rohn referenced the past experience. R. Tuschner stated that the Board can request the number of hours. D. Rossa asked what would happen if the Clerk/Treasurer would not do the job that is mandated to be done; even in an elected position; we do have recourse to say even though you are elected, you are not doing your job; the Board can opt to hire someone. R. Tuschner agreed. The Board can opt to hire someone else to do the job that that individual is not doing or go back to court and have that person removed for malfeasance. This has been done and the Board does not want to do that again. R. Suchla asked about the duties of the elected person. B. Killian stated the State Statutes list the duties of the Clerk and the Treasurer. When speaking to other clerks in the area, they have said you are elected to do the job; you take as much time as you need to get the job done. You might have only posted certain hours, but you are here anyway to get the job done. Discussion continued on accepting the position and fulfilling the duties; the elected position hiring extra help; at annual meeting time the average hours per week was just over 39 hours which does not include the treasurer; other Township clerk/treasurer salaries; number of elections; and time saved on the current bookkeeping system. R. Tuschner stated that in the last Statute it specifically states and/or other duties as assigned by the Board. He continued talking about the past situation and Doris Dahl's position. B. Killian found information on the Town of Trempealeau Clerk/Treasurer position: the salary is \$31,866; this does not give any benefit information. M. Chitko stated that anyone/resident may run for the position. We can say they should be qualified, but only to an extent, because you eliminate someone from running for public office. I. Pronschinske stated that after a full year he/she will be eligible for 10% towards a pension of his/her choosing. This amount is included in the budget. R. Kamrowski asked about the time needed at tax time. If additional help is needed the Clerk/Treasurer will hire someone out of his/her salary. A motion was made by C. Rossa and seconded by R. Suchla to set the Clerk/Treasurer salary at \$35,000. D. Rossa stated that a decent salary is needed to attract a qualified person; maybe they work someplace else, but do the job properly; and they are on salary so the number of hours does not matter. M. Chitko referred back to a statement made previously by C. Rossa that if you put a decent salary someone could make this a career position. In an elected position the job is on the line every 2 years and you have to campaign for the position; it is a popularity contest; so there is no longevity. R. Tuschner spoke of the 3 full time road crew and their salary, and if you get someone qualified, why would you not want to pay them the same amount as the road crew. Why should they get paid less if they do quality work? Hopefully this will spur someone who is good to run for the position. B. Killian thought people should be treated fairly and that the Clerk runs the Town. E. Helwig agrees, because both have difficulty in their positions; the Clerk runs the Town; what about the elections and the amount of work involved; and law changes. N. Rohn stated to go with the \$35,000. I. Pronschinske stated that if the Clerk/Treasurer puts in 40 hours per week that would be \$16.82 per hour. N. Rohn referenced other businesses in the area. I. Pronschinske stated that if that person is doing the job, at budget time the salary could be raised. The vote was taken by a show of hands. The vote was carried unanimously.

The electors must also approve the highway expenditures in excess of \$5,000 multiplied by the number of Town miles. The Town has 131.20 miles. That number multiplied by the \$5,000 gives \$656,000. Our budget for 2015 is not close to that amount. A motion was made by D. Rossa and seconded by K. Geske to approve the \$458,363 amount for highway maintenance. The motion was carried unanimously with a voice vote.

R. Tuschner adjourned the special town meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Killian  
Town of Arcadia Clerk