



**MINUTES
Budget Workshop
November 25, 2019
5:10 p.m.**

THOSE PRESENT

Mayor Bob Poch
Councilmember Fred Netzel
Councilmember Mervin Schmidt
Councilmember Keith St. Jeor

Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden
Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens

Mayor Poch opened the workshop at 5:20p.m.

Electric Rates

Keith St. Jeor said that the town needs to catch the base electric rates up to closer to average of others. Merv suggested an automatic annual increase. Mayor Poch doesn't want to see the increase happen all at once and asked the council to consider increasing in increments over a few years. After much discussion, the council asked the Clerk to prepare a resolution for the next council meeting based on a \$6.00 base rate increase for both residential and commercial and no increase to kilowatt hours.

Streets

Fred Netzel is concerned about the street fund and how the lack of funds will be addressed in the future. He mentioned the potential need for cutbacks which may include wages.

Garbage Rates

The council would like to consider implementing a \$3.00 flat rate increase to all garbage containers. The Clerk will prepare a Resolution for the next council meeting reflecting the potential increase. The council would like to increase revenues in the garbage fund by approximately \$20,000.

Sewer Rates

Sewer rates were raised the previous year by about half of the amount needed to support the future loan payments on the treatment plant. The Council would like to increase it another \$5.00 for 2020, with the remaining \$5.00 increase to be considered in 2021.

Fred Netzel feels it is necessary to have an active Finance Committee to be evaluating the needs throughout the year and not just at budget time.

A new sewer jetter was also discussed. The Superintendent will look into cost estimates.

The Police Chief requested that \$5000 be transferred from the Criminal Justice Fund to the Public Safety Fund, Police Vehicle account to build up for the future replacement of a patrol vehicle.

No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor  Clerk 