

WADENA COUNTY TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

The Wadena County Truth in Taxation Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2017, in the Multipurpose Room, Wadena County Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairperson Hillukka and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were Commissioners: Sheldon Monson, William Stearns, Jim Hofer and Chuck Horsager, County Attorney; Kyra Ladd, County Engineer; Ryan Odden, Human Service Director; Tanya Leskey, Sheriff; Mike Carr, Highway Accountant; Heather Olson, Auditor/Treasurer Accountant; Stacy Smagacz, Deputy; Joe Schoon, Transit Driver; citizens; Jeanette Sanders, Lester Koskiniemi, Annette Adamietz, Francis Adamietz and *Sebeka/Menahga Review Messenger* reporter, Matthew B. Johnson.

In the absence of A/T Taves, Curt Kreklau was clerking the meeting.

Annual Truth In Taxation meeting: Jim Hofer presented on how the budget committee have met numerous times throughout the year in order to get a budget together. The budget committee consists of commissioners; Jim Hofer, Chuck Horsager, Human Service Director; Tanya Leskey, Highway Engineer; Ryan Odden, HR/IT Director; Curt Kreklau and Auditor/Treasurer Judy Taves.

Heather Olson, Highway Accountant, made the presentation on the county budget and levy set in accordance with Minnesota Statute 275.065. The County preliminary levy was set in October at 8.85 million. This is a 2.92% increase from the previous year. The county has experienced a 12% increase since 2012. The 2018 Proposed Levy is 87.589% tax capacity which is a drop from the last few years. Jim Hofer spoke about the drivers to the increase. Health Insurance will now be from the state insurance pool with a 3% increase instead of double digit increases of the last few years. Mental Health issues within the jail and human service departments have made those budgets increase. The county is seeing some growth in both residential and businesses so that helps with the tax capacity for the land owners.

Moved by Commission Horsager, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Curt Kreklau, HR/IT Director

Dave Hillukka, Chairperson
Wadena County Board of Commissioners