

Traverse County Commission  
Truth in Taxation Meeting  
December 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman, Mark Gail. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, which allows a meeting be conducted by telephone or other electronic means during a health pandemic by the governor of the State of Minnesota in Minnesota Statute Chapter 12. Appearing personally are Mark Gail, Dave Salberg, and Kevin Leininger. T. Johnson and Lisa Zahl are appearing via Zoom.

K. Johnson explained that the Board set the preliminary level at a 5.53% increase over 2020, as of today the levy increase is 9.59% over 2020. The increase was in part from the \$200,000 transfer to the Traverse Care Center fund and \$100,000 put aside for the sidewalk.

The Board reviewed the proposed budgets and questioned Social Services and Highway budgets. Leininger asked the other Commissioners if we need to close down the Courthouse one day a week. Leininger told K. Johnson to take out \$100,000 for the sidewalk. Highway did do some cuts of \$103,000. K. Johnson put the MCIT dividend that we normally receive each year, however it is not guaranteed, of \$56,000. This brought the levy to a 5.14% increase over last year. K. Johnson reminded the Board that we do have one of the lowest tax rates in the State. The Commissioners discussed cutting the allocation to the Soil and Water from \$80,000 to \$55,000. This would result in a 4.71% increase over last year. The Board made the decision to take out one pickup from the Highway department budget for \$38,000. Which brings the levy increase over 2020 to 4.06%. The question was asked if we could lower the amount going to the Traverse Care Center fund, and only put what is needed for 2021. K. Johnson will look into this and let the Board know.

The Board will set the 2021 levy at the December 15, 2020, Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Attested to by:

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Lisa Zahl, County Coordinator

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Mark Gail, Board Chair