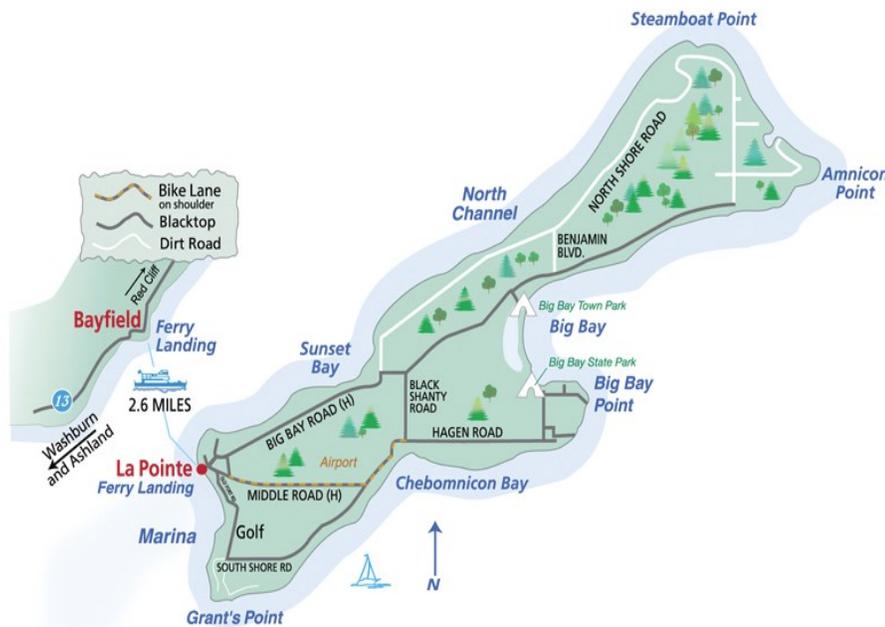


# Town of La Pointe

## 2016 Budget Book

- ◇ Town Board
- ◇ Town Budget
- ◇ Town Structure
- ◇ Property Taxes
- ◇ Planning





# UNDERSTANDING YOUR TOWN GOVERNMENT AND BUDGET

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# **TOWN BOARD**

## **TOWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**



# LA POINTE TOWN BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>First Elected</u>	<u>Term is Up</u>
Mike Anderson	6/26/2015	4/18/2016
John Carlson	4/28/2015	4/17/2017
Michael Childers	4/15/2014	4/18/2016
Jim Patterson	4/5/2005 -4/14/2009 4/12/2010-6/24/2015 Appointed Town Board Chair 6/24/2015	4/17/2017
Mike Starck	4/5/2005-4/13/2009 5/28/2015	4/17/2017

## FROM THE TOWN BOARD CHAIR Jim Patterson

The budget detailed in the following pages is the end result of nearly three months and hundreds of hours of work by the heads of every town department, Administrative Assistant Barb Nelson, Town Administrator Lisa Potswald, and your Town Board. Several budget workshops, open to the public, were held during October to shape the numbers that will serve as the operating road map for the Town of La Pointe next year.

As reported in the most recent *Island Gazette*, what first appeared to be a deficit of around \$500,000 was brought down to a manageable level as a result of compromise and sacrifice in many areas. These adjustments include reduction of the Zoning Administrator from full time to a half time position to be hired in April, the elimination of a proposed Parks Supervisor position, and a reduction of the Library's requested \$10,000 fund increase to \$5,000. Six years' retirement funding for EMS personnel is provided for, and financing will be arranged (while interest rates are at historically low levels) for two vehicles for the Roads and Parks department, and much-needed new roofing for the EMS and Windsled building.

To accomplish this, the Town Board is asking your approval for a levy of \$1,668,885, which is one dollar more than last year's levy of \$1,668,884. To be noted, the 2016 calculated levy limit will be \$84,918 less than 2015 due to restructuring of debt service and other factors. Thus we are asking you to approve an increase that will result in an estimated \$39.00 more per \$100,000 in property valuation. This is the first time in over eight years that a levy increase has been requested, in spite of ever declining financial support from the state and federal governments.

Going forward, we will be looking toward the possibility of going to a two or three year budget projection for more efficient planning and providing for the Town's services.

## DUTIES OF A TOWN SUPERVISOR

The Town Board “has charge of all affairs of the town not committed by law to another body or officer or to a town employee.” S.60.22(1), Wis. Stat. Town Boards may only engage in discussion about or take action on town board matters at a properly noticed town board meeting. The Town Board takes action by voting on motions and adopting ordinances and resolutions. Most actions pass with a simple majority vote. Among the responsibilities of the Town Board:

- ⇒ The preparation of the annual budget and conducting the required public hearing on the budget (ss. 60.40(2) & (3), Wis. Stat.). Prior to the adoption of the final budget, the Town Board must conduct a public hearing on the budget. The Town electors must approve of the tax levy at a special Town meeting unless the electors have delegated this authority to the Town Board;
- ⇒ The preparation of an annual financial statement, which must be presented at the Town’s annual meeting (s. 60.41, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Approve all claims and disbursements from the Town treasury (66.0607, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Adopt an alternatives claims procedures that allows certain bills to be paid in advance of town board approval to avoid late fees/penalties (s. 60.44(2), Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ The care and supervision of town highways (s. 82.03(1), Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Where new town roads will be laid out and whether existing roads will be altered or discontinued (s. 82.10, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Complying with the competitive bidding law that applies to town public works (s. 60.47, Wis. Stat.) and the state prevailing wage law for projects that exceed certain cost thresholds (s. 66.0903, Wis. Stat.)
- ⇒ Approve all town contracts;
- ⇒ Determine the manner in which fire protection and ambulance services will be provided to the Town (s. 60.55 & 60.565, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Determine if the town will provide law enforcement for the town (s. 60.10(1)(b)4, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Develop and adopt an emergency management program and plan that is consistent with the state emergency management plan (s. 323.14(1), Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Appoint a town assessor (s. 60.307(3)(b), Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Act as the Town Board of Review (s. 70.46, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Determine whether any zoning will apply outside of the county’s shoreland and floodplain ordinances. If the Town electors authorize the town board to exercise local zoning authority, the town can adopt a general zoning ordinance (s. 60.61, Wis. Stat.);

## DUTIES OF A TOWN SUPERVISOR (continued)

- ⇒ Establish a plan commission (s. 60.62, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Adopt a comprehensive plan (s. 66.1001, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Regulate how land is divided and platted through the adoption of a local subdivision ordinance (s. 236.45, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Hire personnel, including establishing the job qualifications and terms of employments (s. 60.37, Wis. Stat.);
- ⇒ Hire legal counsel (s. 60.37(2), Wis. Stat.).

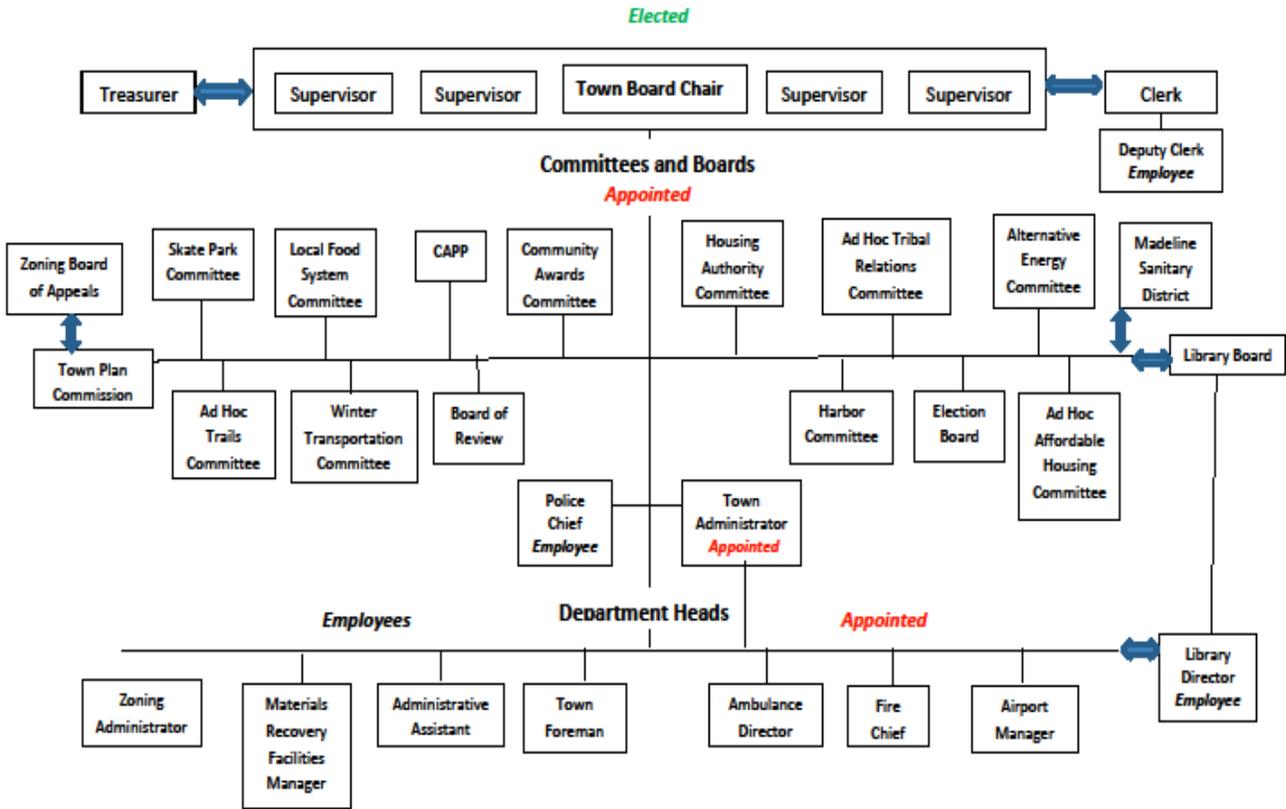
## TOWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Towns are the only form of government in Wisconsin, as well as most of the world, where citizens have the ability to self-govern to the degree of directly voting for their own property tax rate, among other things. Towns are created by the Wisconsin Constitution to provide basic municipal government services, such as elections, property tax administration (towns collect taxes for counties, schools and other governments, as well as for their own budgets), road construction and maintenance, recycling, emergency medical services and fire protection. Some towns also offer law enforcement, solid waste collection, zoning and other services. Towns are "general purpose" local governments, which means that they provide basic services used daily by all residents (Wisconsin also has "special purpose" governments that offer more targeted services, such as school districts). The major duties and powers of all towns are spelled out in Article IV, Section 23 of the Wisconsin Constitution, [Ch. 60 of the Wisconsin Statutes](#) (which pertains specifically to town governments) and [Ch. 66 of the Wisconsin Statutes](#) (which applies to towns, villages and cities).

The day-to-day administrative issues of each town are handled by an elected town board, consisting of three or five members. Town boards are elected for two-year terms in spring elections. Towns are also served by a clerk and treasurer (or combined clerk-treasurer) and can have an appointed town administrator. In some respects, towns operate like cities and villages, but in other ways they are quite different. They are similar in the sense that they provide many of the same services as cities and villages, but they are organized and governed in a different manner. The major distinguishing feature of towns is the fact that they continue to operate as a "direct democracy." State law requires towns to hold "town meetings" where all qualified electors who are age 18 or older and have lived in the town for at least ten days can discuss and vote on town matters, including the town's property tax levy. This means that the **electors** (someone who is eligible to vote in the election of a government) of the town have more direct control over their most local government issues. Towns also tend to dove-tail their services with counties to a greater extent than cities and villages.

All Wisconsin towns, regardless of size, remain the most pure form of democracy in this state. Town residents have a local government that is focused on basic public services like road maintenance, fire protection, snow plowing, building permits and many other services that people depend on every day. Part of the reason towns operate so efficiently is the huge amount of service offered by volunteers. The Town Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Departments are more than a proud part of our heritage -- with modern equipment and skills, volunteers still play a vital role in town government.

## TOWN OF LA POINTE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## TOWN OF LA POINTE DEPARTMENT HEADS

- Roads, Parks, Dock, Harbor, Town Property Management\_\_\_ Kristian Larsen
- Police Department\_\_\_\_\_ Chief Bill Defoe
- Fire Department (appointed)\_\_\_\_\_ Chief Rick Reichkitzer
- Town Hall, General Government, Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Barb Nelson
- Ambulance (appointed)\_\_\_\_\_ Cindy Dalzell
- Madeline Recycling Facility (MRF)\_\_\_\_\_ Ted Pallas
- Airport (appointed)\_\_\_\_\_ Michael Dalzell
- Planning and Zoning\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Potswald
- Town Administrator (appointed)\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Potswald (Interim)

# **TOWN BUDGET**



**Town of LaPointe**  
**2015 payable 2016 Levy Increase**  
**Resolution #2015-1117**

*Whereas*, the State of Wisconsin had adopted levy limits on town, village, city and county levies for 2015 and thereafter under Sec. 66.0602 of Wisconsin;

*Whereas*, Sec. 66.0602 of Wisconsin Statutes limits the local levy for 2015 to a percentage increase to no more than the greater of (a) 0.00% of the 2014 payable 2015 adjusted actual levy as calculated under the state's levy limit law or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to net new construction, which for the Town of LaPointe is .304%;

*Whereas*, the Town Board of the Town of LaPointe, Ashland County believes it is in the town's interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than .304% percent.

*Whereas*, the Town of LaPointe's 2014 payable 2015 adjusted actual levy is **\$1,288,892**; and further whereas the state law would limit the increase to **\$3,918.00** for a total allowable town tax levy of **\$1,292,810** with the additional **\$291,156.00** adjustment to the levy limit for Debt Service for general obligation debt authorized after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, making the adjusted levy limit total to be **\$1,583,966**.

*Now therefore*, the Town Board of the Town of LaPointe, Ashland County does hereby resolve and orders as follows:

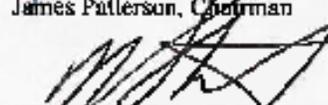
1. The Town Board hereby supports an increase in the town tax levy for 2015 (to be collected in 2016) to exceed the state levy limit.
2. The Town Board directs that the question of increasing the town tax levy for 2015 (to be collected in 2016) by 5.361% percentage, which would increase the Town's levy by **\$84,919.00**, for a total town tax levy of **\$1,668,885**, shall be placed on the agenda for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

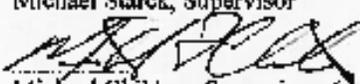
Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015.

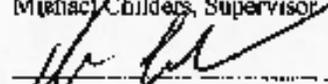
Attest:

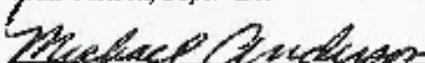
  
Micaela Montagna, Clerk

  
James Patterson, Chairman

  
Michael Starck, Supervisor

  
Michael Childers, Supervisor

  
John Carlson, Supervisor

  
Michael Anderson, Supervisor

(this resolution should be posted within 30 days of adoption by the TB, pursuant to Sec. 60.80 of WI Statutes.)

# **TOWN BUDGET CREATION**

By WTA Attorney Lee Turonie  
October 1, 2014

Towns operate on a fiscal year that is the same as the calendar year with a new budget starting every New Year's Day. Therefore all towns must adopt a new budget each fall. While there is not a specific deadline named in the statutes for the budget to have been completed, there are several reasons why a budget ought to be passed by the beginning of December.

The clerk is generally supposed to deliver a prepared tax roll to the treasurer by December 8th. Wis. Stat. § 74.03. Also, by the 3rd Monday in December the clerk must send the Department of Revenue a statement of all taxes to be levied during the next year. § 69.61(1). Finally, most tax bills are printed by a third party, usually the county, and the printer necessarily has a deadline for receipt of needed information to accommodate their printing and mailing schedule.

## **Roles & responsibilities**

The town board is responsible for the preparation of the budget, although it may provide for assistance from any person in doing that. § 60.40. "Any person(s)" could be anyone. Beware that any gathering of a town board quorum to work on the budget is subject to standard open meetings law, including when it is called a "workshop" or any other name. § 19.82 & 19.84.

The electors generally set the levy and the pay for elected officers. §§ 60.10(2)(a) & 60.32. Unfortunately levy limits have added significant complexity to raising a levy, although it can still be done. § 66.0602. Other than these broad strokes the electors are not involved with budget specifics other than possibly the few minor things listed under § 60.10(3) and the, for towns, rare issuance of debt in the form of municipal bonds. § 67.05.

## **The process & notices**

There are in total four steps to pass a town budget: (1) the town board completes a proposed budget; (2) the town board holds a public hearing on the proposed budget; (3) a town meeting of the electors is held to set the levy, etc.; and (4) the town board makes any adjustments deemed necessary and then passes a final budget. Some towns complete steps 2 through 4 in a single evening by properly noticing each event to take place and adjourn followed by the next until they have all been completed.

As a consequence of the levy limit law towns have to wait until fall to create their budgets and set levies. This is because a levy limit worksheet, showing each town's allowable levy, is not available from the Department of Revenue until usually early September. Thus, you neither know what your default levy limit will be nor can you start completing the paperwork necessary to properly attempt exceeding the levy limit until you have that information first.

As a first step the town board designs a proposed budget. § 65.90(1). A summary of the budget must be created and noticed to the public together with information on where to find the full budget and the scheduling of a public hearing on the proposed budget. In towns this notice must be posted in three places at least 15 days prior to the public hearing. § 65.90(3)(a)1. The public hearing is for members of the public to make their comments on the town board's proposed budget.

## **BUDGET TOWN CREATION (continued)**

Next is a special town meeting of the electors. It requires a notice with an agenda, unlike the Annual Town Meeting. Notice must also be made not more than 20 nor less than 15 days prior to the meeting. § 60.12. This notice could either be published as a Class 2 notice in a newspaper or posted in three places. At the meeting the town electors do not vote to “approve” the budget. The electors are also not able to vote on most types of specific budgetary line items. Instead, the electors are authorized by statute to vote on only broad strokes such as setting the levy and elected officers’ pay. Greater details addressed within the budget are for the town board to decide.

Finally, the town board needs to adopt the final budget at a properly noticed board meeting. Depending on how the public hearing and elector meeting have gone the town board may want to make some adjustments from the originally proposed budget prior to final passage

### **Other issues to know**

Improperly exceeding the levy limit results in a dollar-for-dollar reduction in municipal aid (shared revenue) as punishment. § 66.0602. There is no penalty for properly exceeding the levy limit. If you are in dire financial straits yet cannot get a levy increase passed there is really only the option of borrowing money. Debt is an exception to the levy limit such that making regularly scheduled debt payments are provided for no matter the levy limit otherwise.

A town does not have legal authority to levy for a surplus. This means that in the budget it is best to have monies specifically designated (labeled) as to a purpose, whatever that purpose may be. If you are saving up for something, just label it as the e.g. “saving up for X fund.” Designations of monies can be changed in the future as desired. I.e., you can change your minds down the road so long as you keep monies designated.

Once it is passed a budget is not set in stone. Rather it can be amended as needed by a two-thirds vote of the town board. § 65.90(5). This just has to appear on the agenda for a properly noticed board meeting. Anytime a budgetary line item becomes exhausted the board is first supposed to amend the budget to provide additional funds before any more can be spent for that particular line item’s purpose. Checks are only to be written for purposes where money is present in a budgetary line item that will cover issuance of the check. § 66.0607(7).

### **Allocating the ledger**

Budgets are the lifeblood and at least near-term plan for any organization. For towns, budgeting is a transparent process involving balance between the board and electors. The levy limit law intrudes inefficiently into this process but can be managed with enough extra work.

## 2016 TOWN BUDGET PROCESS

The 2016 Town of La Pointe budget process began in September 2015 when department heads were required to complete their budget documents that included their operational budget, personnel, capital equipment plan, and designated funds. The Interim Town Administrator then met with each department head to review their 2016 budget. After review, the budgets were turned over to the Administrative Assistant, who entered them into the Town's budget program and analyzed them for discrepancies from prior years' budgets. Any discrepancies were brought to the attention of the Department Head. Once the majority of questions were answered and information received, a Round One budget document was produced to begin the Town Board's work.

The 2016 budget proved to be a real challenge for the Town Board. The difference between anticipated revenues and budgeted expenditures in Round One was over **\$500,000**. The Town Board first met with each department head during the last two weeks in October to hear their budget presentation, which included their staffing plans and goals for the coming year. Once those meetings were completed, the Town Board asked all department heads to review their budgets again and reduce expenditures wherever they could. The Administrative Assistant and Town Administrator worked together to identify some additional omissions and errors – this resulted in a reduction of \$98,000 after Round One.

Round Two began with a budget meeting on November 5 in which the Town Board members came to agreement on a number of possible strategies:

- ⇒ All hourly employees would receive a 1% salary increase for 2016
- ⇒ All equipment (2 trucks for Roads) and capital improvement projects (EMS and Winter Transportation roofs ) would be financed through a loan
- ⇒ All designated funds that are taxpayers' money (not from donations or fundraisers) will be depleted (\$125,000).

After the Administrative Assistant inputted the changes, these actions reduced the budget deficit to approximately \$144,000.

The Town Board met on November 11 to review the impact of the changes discussed at the November 5 meeting. The Board then identified their three goals for the 2016 budget, which included:

1. Not borrowing money to support operations
2. Borrow money to fund capital projects and equipment
3. Consider an increase in taxes to cover the cost of operations

On November 13, 2015, the Town Board agreed to present the following budget to the Town's electors:

Beginning 2016 Checkbook Balance	\$218,496 (Estimated)
Total 2016 Budget of	\$2,756,191
Increase in Town's Share of the Levy	*\$39 per \$100,000 before credits

\*Note that the projected Town's share of the levy increase of \$39 per \$100,000 will bring the Town's levy to \$1 over 2015/2016 (due to rounding).

## 2016 TOWN BUDGET PROCESS (continued)

Of note in the 2016 budget:

- ⇒ The Zoning Administrator position is reduced from a full-time to a half-time position, with the open position to be filled beginning in April 2016;
- ⇒ Six years' retirement is funded for each EMS staff (Fire Department's was funded in 2015);
- ⇒ The Library's 2016 request for an increase of \$10,000 is reduced to \$5,000;
- ⇒ Parks Supervisor (newly added full-time position) is taken out of the budget for 2016; and
- ⇒ The Town will borrow money to put a new roof on the EMS and Windsled buildings and purchase equipment for Roads and Parks

The Town's budget will be unstable for the next 4-5 years, until the Town pays off its largest loan in 2020. County, state and federal revenues continue to decrease, while Town expenses are either staying the same or increasing. The Town must stick to the 2016 budget and engage in long-term planning for capital improvement projects and equipment purchases in order to plan fund deferred capital projects and equipment purchases. The Town Board intends to conduct strategic planning sessions in early 2016 to identify Town priorities and ways to improve the Town's budget position over the next 5 years.

### **OF NOTE:**

Wis. Stat. s. 82.03(2) requires the town electors approve the total highway expenditures of the budget. This act places limitations on town expenditures for certain highway purposes. The Wisconsin Towns Association noted that this requirement was unique to towns and had become severely outdated and cumbersome. The Governor signed Act 105, which went into effect on November 13, 2015, eliminating Wis. Stat. s. 82.03(2). This means the Town's electors will no longer vote on the highway expenditures; only the levy. The electors retain all other authorities such as approval of the town levy, etc.

# TAX LEVY SUMMARY

TOWN OF	LA POINTE	Tax Levy Summary			
		2015	2014	2013	2012
Reduced Bayfield	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Schools' levy by	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable
schooltax credit.	in	in	in	in	in
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>State Of WI</b>	<b>47,247.78</b>	<b>47,989.92</b>	<b>48,118.54</b>	<b>48,364.52</b>	50,244.28
% of change	-1.5%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-3.7%	-1.7%
<b>Ashland Cty</b>	<b>1,536,101.59</b>	<b>1,572,046.41</b>	<b>1,548,693.34</b>	<b>1,533,524.33</b>	1,547,693.17
% of change	-2.3%	1.5%	1.0%	-0.9%	0.1%
	23.70%				
<b>VTAE</b>	<b>104,028.93</b>	<b>102,403.39</b>	<b>355,279.71</b>	<b>353,899.34</b>	349,389.69
% of change	1.6%	-71.2%	0.4%	1.3%	1.7%
<b>Bayfield School</b>	<b>2,274,193.77</b>	<b>2,315,381.44</b>	<b>2,329,367.05</b>	<b>2,340,255.41</b>	2,393,161.63
% of change	-1.8%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-2.2%	-0.2%
	47.55%				
<b>Mad Sanitary</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>	50,000.00
% of change	-50.0%	0.0%	25.0%	-20.0%	0.0%
<b>Town LaPointe</b>	<b>1,668,885.00</b>	<b>1,668,884.00</b>	<b>1,666,852.00</b>	<b>1,656,740.06</b>	1,594,373.00
% of change	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	3.9%	0.8%
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>5,655,457.07</b>	<b>5,756,705.16</b>	<b>5,998,310.64</b>	<b>5,972,783.66</b>	<b>5,984,861.77</b>
% of change	-1.8%	-4.0%	0.4%	-0.2%	4.3%

## TAX LEVY SUMMARY (continued)

Reduced Bayfield Schools' levy by schooltax credit.	<b>2015</b> Payable in <b><u>2016</u></b>	<b>2014</b> Payable in <b><u>2015</u></b>	<b>2013</b> Payable in <b><u>2014</u></b>	<b>2012</b> Payable in <b><u>2013</u></b>	<b>2011</b> Payable in <b><u>2012</u></b>
<b>School Credits</b>	502,626.23	447,656.56	450,819.02	446,755.59	442,403.37
<i>(deducted from Bayfield School levy above)</i>					
<b>Net for Mill Rate</b>	<b>5,655,457.07</b>	<b>5,756,705.16</b>	<b>5,998,310.64</b>	<b>5,972,783.66</b>	<b>5,984,861.77</b>
<b>Equalized Value</b>	278,409,600.00	282,782,700	283,540,600	284,989,800	296,066,400
<b>Assessed Value</b>	292,801,100	314,278,800	315,973,900	317,577,300	319,827,100
<b>Aggregate Ratio-Cal.</b>	1.051691824	1.111379161	1.114386793	1.114346198	1.080254632
<b>Mill rate</b>	0.019315013	0.018317192	0.018983564	0.018807338	0.018712804
<b>Tax Statement</b>	0.019315013	0.018317193	0.018983564	0.018807337	0.018712804
<b>Lottery Credit</b>	104.73	107.48	89.97	89.97	86.20
<b>First dollar Credit</b>	64.83	63.51	64.54	64.54	65.13
<b>Tax Breakdown:</b>	<b>\$1,932</b>	<b>\$1,832</b>	<b>\$1,898</b>	<b>\$1,881</b>	<b>\$1,871</b>
State of WI	\$16 #	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$16
Ashland County	\$525 #	\$500	\$490	\$483	\$484
VTAE	\$36 #	\$33	\$112	\$111	\$109
Bayfield School	\$777 #	\$737	\$737	\$737	\$748
Mad Sanitary	\$9 #	\$16	\$16	\$13	\$16
Town of LaPointe	\$570 #	\$531	\$528	\$522	\$499
<b>TOTAL TAX:</b>	<b>\$1,932</b>	<b>\$1,832</b>	<b>\$1,898</b>	<b>\$1,881</b>	<b>\$1,871</b>
<b>Increase in tax from previous yr:</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>(\$67)</b>	<b>\$18</b>	<b>\$9</b>	<b>\$10</b>

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING TOWN of LA POINTE

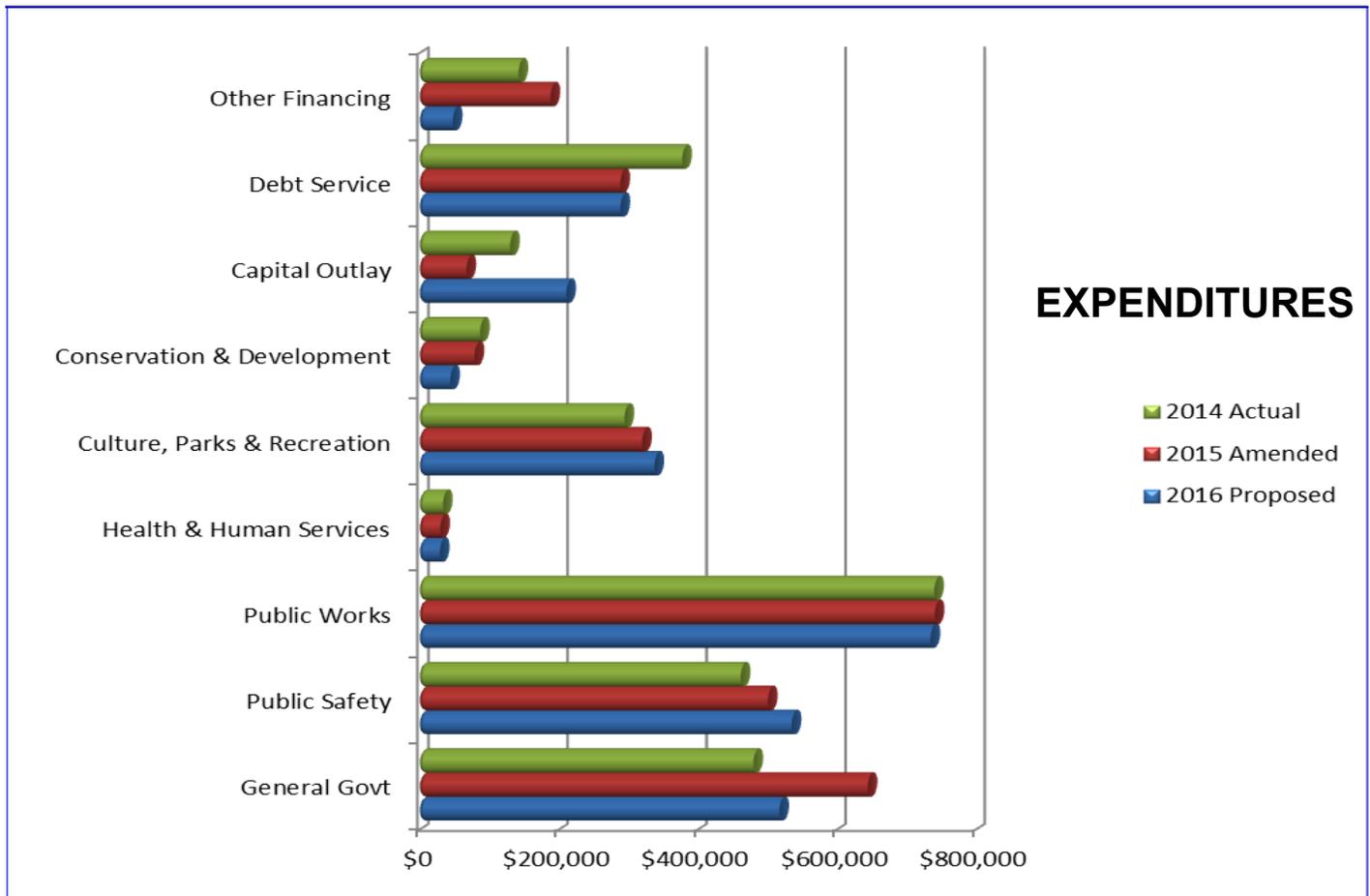
Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 7th, 2015 at 5:00 pm. at the LaPointe Town Hall, a PUBLIC HEARING on the **PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET** of the Town of LaPointe will be held. The Proposed Budget in detail is available for inspection at the Town Hall from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Mon-Fridays. The following is a summary of the proposed budget.

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	
	<b>Budget Approved</b>	<b>Total Actual +</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>	<b>% of</b>
	<b>As Amended</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
General Property Taxes	1,668,884	1,667,094	1,668,885	0.0 %
Other Taxes	103,896	108,606	109,919	5.8 %
Intergovernmental Funds	566,878	575,738	162,156	
Licenses & Permits	24,892	23,565	23,042	
Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties	3,900	3,612	3,235	
Public Charges for Services	243,019	285,939	259,301	
Intergovernmental Chrgs Services	158,587	163,063	161,875	
Miscellaneous Revenues	49,771	75,969	71,694	
Other Financing Sources	36,650	36,651	236,404	
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2,856,477</b>	<b>2,940,237</b>	<b>2,696,511</b>	<b>-5.6 %</b>
Cash Balance Applied	23,520	0	69,680	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b>2,879,997</b>	<b>2,940,237</b>	<b>2,766,191</b>	<b>-4.0 %</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>				
General Governmental	646,649	639,716	519,547	
Public Safety	503,274	483,368	537,395	
Public Works	743,189	750,745	737,173	
Health & Human Services	31,970	31,850	31,430	
Culture, Recreation & Education	322,409	304,214	339,971	
Conservation & Development	81,227	61,806	46,354	
Capital Outlay	69,722	49,733	213,166	
Debt Service	291,086	291,264	291,156	
Other Financing Sources	190,473	189,673	50,000	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>2,879,999</b>	<b>2,802,369</b>	<b>2,766,192</b>	<b>-4.0 %</b>
Revenues over Expenditures	(2)	137,868	(0)	

All Governmental and Proprietary Funds Combined	2016 Fund		Total Expends	2016 Fund	
	Balance Jan. 1st	Total Revenues		Balance Dec. 31st	Property Tax Contribution
General Fund	268,177	2,696,511	2,766,192	198,496	1,638,885
Special Funds (Designated)	386,218	150,545	204,304	332,459	30,000
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>\$654,395</b>	<b>\$2,847,056</b>	<b>\$2,970,496</b>	<b>\$530,956</b>	<b>\$1,668,885</b>

The following new or discontinued programs have a financial impact on the Proposed 2016 budget:

<b>DISCONTINUED/COMPLETED PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/FUNCTIONS:</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	
Big Bay Town Park Project Completed	(11,735)	
Dock & Parking Lots Lighting Projects	(12,500)	
Parking Lots Improvements	(2,450)	
Town Hall Entry Way	(5,085)	
Town Hall Generator	(3,000)	
Library Roof	(11,000)	
Joni's Beach Improvements	(3,052)	
Fire Dept Length of Service Buy Back	(14,012)	
Zoning Fire Number Project	(9,000)	-71,834
<b>NEW PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/FUNCTIONS:</b>		
Sealing of Big Bay Town Park Floors	12,000	
Ambulance Service Length of Service Program & Yrs Buy Back	10,405	22,405
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b>	<b>(\$49,428)</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>



## EXPENDITURES OF NOTE:

**Other Financing-** There has been a reduction in this category as no funds were budgeted to be placed in designated funding categories for 2016.

**Debt Service-** Debt service has decrease in the past 2 years due to the Town Board’s decision in 2015 to restructure the Town’s debt.

**Capital Outlay-** Capital outlay increased for 2016 because the roofs for the Fire Hall and Winter Transportation buildings must be replaced.

**Conservation and Development-** Planning and Zoning staffing has been decreased to a half-time position.

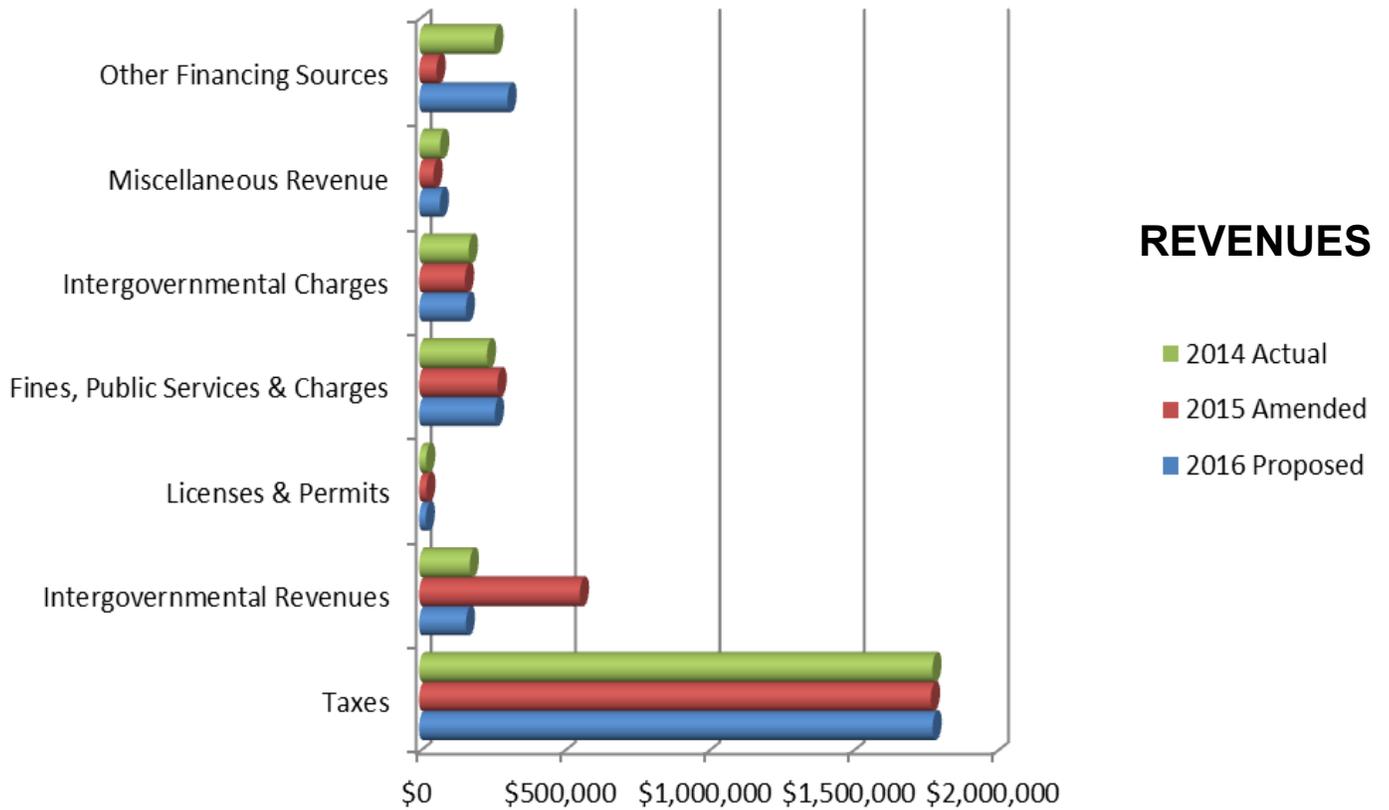
**Culture, Parks and Recreation-** Spending in Parks has increased over the past three years due to prior deferred maintenance.

**Health and Human Services-** The support given to the Health Clinic has remained stable.

**Public Works-** Public works spending has remained stable.

**Public Safety-** Public safety spending has increased due to salary increases to remain competitive with the local law enforcement employment market and the cost of benefits.

**General Government-** General government expenses were up in 2015 due to the final arrangement with the former Town Administrator and high legal expenses.



## REVENUES OF NOTE:

**Other Financing Sources**– This category will increase in 2016 due to borrowing for roofs and roads equipment purchases.

**Miscellaneous Revenues**- This category increased slightly due to the sale of equipment and recyclables.

**Intergovernmental Charges**– There is a slight increase in 2016 due to Town work scheduled for Highway H (Middle Road), which is done by the Town’s road crew and costs are reimbursed by the county.

**Fines, Public Services and Charges**- This is down slightly for 2016 due in part to fewer ambulance runs and low prices on recyclables.

**Licenses and Permits**– Revenue from zoning permits continues to decrease due to changes on the state level with regard to shoreland zoning.

**Intergovernmental Revenue**– This category decreased dramatically due to receipt of Big Bay Town Park grant funds in 2015, and reduction in state transportation aids.

**Taxes**– Tax revenue has stayed about the same for the past three years. Accommodations tax revenue has increased in 2016.

# COMPENSATION

## 2016 COMPENSATION INFO

Employee Name	Department	2016 TB 1%, but law	2016 Proposed Gross Pay	2015 Approved Pay rate	2015 Proposed Gross Pay	2014 Approved Pay Rate
	Parks Sup/#4	\$18.00	\$0			
Hardie, Dick	Park #1	\$16.97	\$25,130	\$16.80	\$26,477	\$16.00
	Park #2	\$14.00	\$7,294	\$14.00	\$9,394	\$12.75
	Park #3	\$14.00	\$4,984	\$14.00	\$11,564	\$12.75
	Pks Operation (POA)					\$12.00
	Pks Imp/Labor (PIL/PAL)					\$12.00
	Invasive Species (2)	\$13.00	\$15,574	\$13.00	\$27,040	\$13.00
	Camp Host #1	\$13.00	\$11,375	\$11.55	\$7,334	\$11.00
	Camp Host #2	\$12.00	\$9,888	\$10.00	\$6,350	
Dalzell, Michael	Airport Manager	\$550.00	\$6,600	\$550.00	\$6,600	\$550.00
	TPC Planning & Zoning Admin	\$20.00	\$14,800	\$21.50	\$44,720	\$20.50
TPC Committee	TPC	\$50.00	\$5,400	\$50.00	\$7,200	\$50.00
TPC Committee Chair	TPC	\$75.00	\$1,350	\$75.00	\$1,800	\$75.00
BOA Committee mbrs	TPC	\$50.00	\$0	\$50.00	\$750	\$50.00
BOA Committee Chair	TPC	\$75.00	\$0	\$75.00	\$225	\$75.00
Pallas, Ted	MRF Supervisor	\$24.24	\$52,237	\$24.00	\$50,784	\$23.15
Baxter, Carey	MRF Assistant	\$16.82	\$30,690	\$16.65	\$30,236	\$15.85
3rd Person	MRF Assist LTE	\$12.50	\$1,250	\$12.50	\$7,500	
Larsen, Kristian	Roads Foreman	\$23.87	\$49,642	\$23.63	\$49,150	\$22.00
Erickson, Evan	Roads Crew #1	\$20.95	\$43,571	\$20.74	\$19,102	\$19.75
Hagen, William	Roads Crew #2	\$18.83	\$39,159	\$18.64	\$38,771	\$17.75
Rds Temp Truck driver	Roads	\$15.00	\$6,900	\$15.00	\$0	\$15.00
	Evan's replacement	\$17.00	\$0	\$17.00	\$25,500	
Hage, Adam	Roads Mechanic	\$21.21	\$44,117	\$21.00	\$43,680	\$20.00
Nelson, Barb	Gen Government	\$27.02	\$62,275	\$26.75	\$62,662	\$26.31
Erickson, Waggie	Gen Government	\$19.19	\$42,122	\$19.00	\$41,990	\$18.70
TOWN ADMIN	Gen Government	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$61,021	\$1,586,545	\$60,060
Defoe, William	Law - Chief	\$27.97	\$62,317	\$25.00	\$55,700	\$22.50
Carpenter, Dan-	Law	\$21.72	\$51,976	\$20.56	\$49,200	\$19.96
Officers	Law	\$20.00	\$77,000	\$17.00	\$24,565	\$16.63
Officer #7	Law	\$20.00	\$0	\$17.00	\$25,849	\$16.50
Officer #8	Law		\$0	\$17.00	\$8,840	\$16.50
Officer #6	Law		\$0	\$17.00	\$3,264	\$16.50
Officer #	Law					\$16.50

## COMPENSATION (continued)

### 2016 COMPENSATION INFO

Employee Name	Department	2016	2016	2015	2015	2014
		TB	Proposed	Approved	Proposed	Approved
		1%, but law	Gross Pay	Pay rate	Gross Pay	Pay Rate
Ross, Connie	Library	\$23.74	\$43,207	\$21.84	\$39,749	\$19.84
Demorest, Seri	Library	\$22.27	\$40,531	\$20.23	\$36,819	\$18.38
Library Aids	Library	\$10.60	\$14,755	\$10.42	\$13,233	\$10.25
<b>SUB-CONTRACTOR</b>	Library Custodian	\$0.00	\$0	\$11.88	\$1,853	\$11.69
	Rec Center Director	\$14.65	\$8,772	\$14.50	\$8,686	\$14.50
	Rec Director Asst.	\$10.10	\$6,050	\$10.00	\$5,990	\$10.00
Town Board Chair	Elected	\$650.00	\$7,800	\$650.00	\$7,800	\$650.00
Town Board Supervisors (each)	Elected - each	\$400.00	\$19,200	\$400.00	\$19,200	\$400.00
Town Clerk	Elected	\$1,700.00	\$20,400	\$1,700.00	\$20,400	\$1,700
Town Treasurer	Elected	\$825.00	\$9,900	\$825.00	\$9,900	\$825
Election Worker	Election (7)	\$75	\$1,200	\$75	\$900	\$75
Chief Election Inspector	Election	\$85	\$680	\$85	\$510	\$85
Election Worker	Board of Canvas	\$25	\$200	\$25	\$150	\$25
Dalzell, Cindy	Ambulance Director- Admin	\$250	\$3,000	\$250	\$3,000	\$250
Schuppe, Deena	Ambulance Director-Equip	\$200	\$2,400	\$150	\$1,800	\$150
Schram, Sarah	Ambulance Director-Personnel	\$200	\$2,400	\$150	\$1,800	\$150
	EMT & Drivers On Call	\$1.00		\$1.00		\$1.00
	EMT Team Leader On Call	\$0.50		\$0.50		\$0.50
	EMT & Drivers Meeting Attend.	\$18.00		\$18.00		\$18.00
	EMT & Drivers CEU Education	\$18.00		\$18.00		\$18.00
	EMT Respond NO Transport	\$25.00		\$25.00		\$25.00
	EMT Respond Bayfield Transport	\$40.00		\$40.00		\$40.00
	EMT Respond Ashland Transport	\$80.00		\$80.00		\$80.00
	EMT Respond Duluth Transport	\$170.00		\$170.00		\$170.00
	Drivers Respond NO Transport	\$15.00		\$15.00		\$15.00
	Drivers Respond Bayfield	\$30.00		\$30.00		\$30.00
	Drivers Respond Ashland	\$65.00		\$65.00		\$65.00
	Drivers Respond Duluth	\$140.00		\$140.00		\$140.00
Rick Reichkitzer	Fire Chief	\$500	\$6,000	\$500	\$6,000	\$500.00
Fire Dept.	Fire <b>Fighter</b> Mtg. Attend.	\$18.00		\$18.00		\$18.00
Fire Dept.	Fire <b>Officer</b> Mtg. Attend.	\$18.00		\$18.00		\$18.00
Fire Dept.	Fire <b>Fighter</b> Call Response	\$50.00		\$50.00		\$50.00
Fire Dept.	Fire <b>Officer</b> Call Response	\$60.00		\$60.00		\$50.00
	<i>includes ice rescues</i>					
Fire Dept.	Fire Fighter per CEU educ.	\$5.00		\$5.00		\$5.00
	Lead Engineer	\$200	\$2,400	\$180	\$2,160	\$150.00
	FD Inspectors - Commercial	\$400	\$2,400	\$350	\$1,400	\$350.00

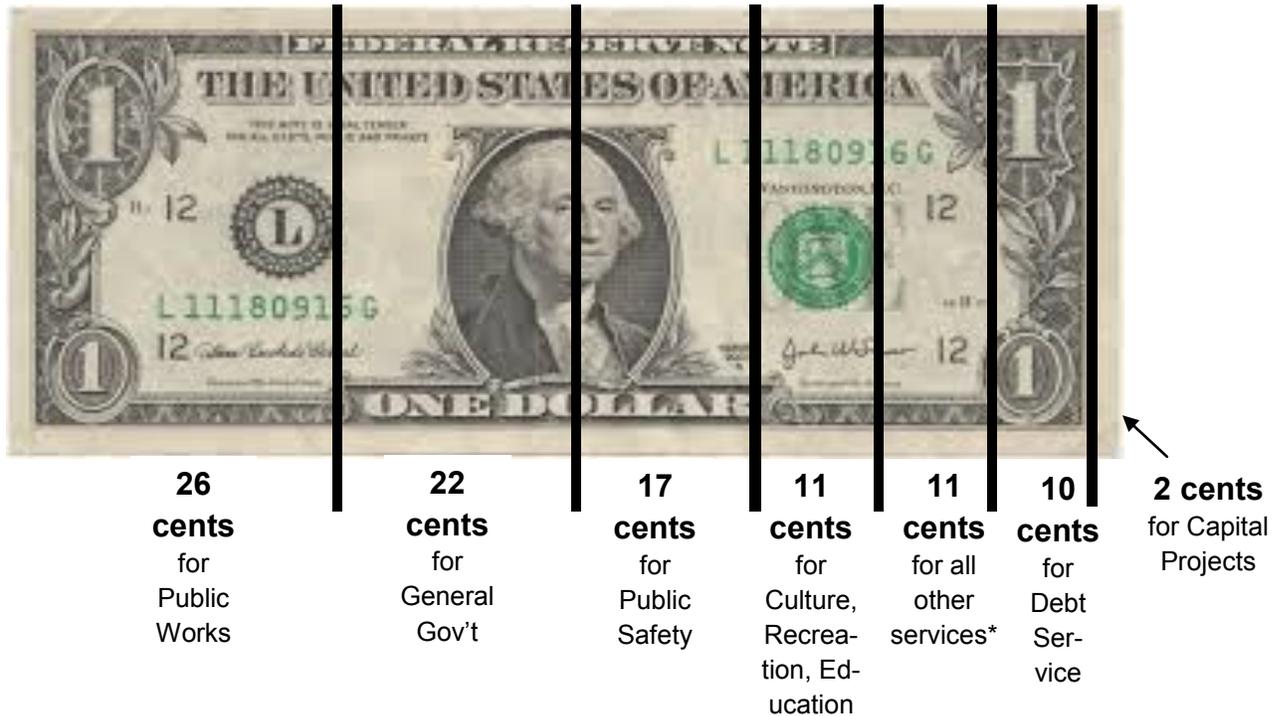
**DESIGNATED FUNDS**  
**(Projected)**

<b>Designated Fund</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>End Bal</b>	<b>Rev</b>	<b>Expend</b>	<b>End Bal</b>
Parks Pergola	95	0	0	95
Parks Cap. Projects	17,254	0	0	17,254
Airport Improvement	0	0	0	0
MRF Equipment	0	0	0	(0)
Winter Transportation	17,622	30,000	37,000	10,622
Road Salt/Sand Bldg	0	0	0	(0)
Alternative Energy	1,000	0	1,000	(0)
Harbor Committee	25,004	0	0	25,004
Community Awards	0	0	0	0
Fireworks MICofC	0	20,000	20,000	0
Compensation Fund	0	20,000	20,000	0
Cap Improvement Fund	3,226	0	0	3,226
Room Tax	30,002	30,015	27,900	32,117
Cemetery Fund	468	0	0	468
Fire Dept.	2,502	0	2,502	0
Fire Dept. Truck	7,039	0	0	7,039
Fire Dept. Bldg. Fund	20,002	0	20,002	0
Fire Dept. SCBA Fund	0	0	0	(0)
Ice Rescue	3,000	0	0	3,000
Fire Dept. 66.0608 Funds	53,466	0	14,100	39,366
Ambul. Replacement	21,558	0	0	21,558
Act 102/EMS Funding	9,019	4,500	9,000	4,519
Ambul. Equipment	20,496	0	3,600	16,896
Ambulance 66.0608 Fund	40,221	30,000	18,700	51,521
Rec Playground/Skatepark	34	0	0	34
Ballfield Designated	3,596	0	0	3,596
Library Gen Funds	17,791	7,010	5,000	19,801
Library Scholarship	4,904	3,000	3,000	4,904
Library County Grant	0	1,000	1,000	0
Library NWLS Grant	(1,167)	1,400	1,400	(1,167)
Island Asc./SCAP	2,190	1,000	1,000	2,190
Library Smith Funds	2,447	220	2,000	667
Gates Family Foundation	74	0	0	74
M Campbell Fund	42,368	0	0	42,368
Elevator Fund	599	600	0	1,199
Materials Fund	135	300	300	135
O'Brien Fund	527	300	300	527
Lib Ski/CARP	0	200	2,500	(2,300)
Lib Art Purchase Award	5,154	1,000	1,000	5,154
Lib-Mead Witter Fund	0	0	0	(0)
Wish List Fund	0	0	0	0
BCEF Grant	205	0	0	205
Fred & Jane Havens	13,000	0	13,000	0
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED</b>	<b>\$386,218</b>	<b>\$150,545</b>	<b>\$204,304</b>	<b>\$332,459</b>

# PROPERTY TAXES



## WHERE DOES YOUR TAX DOLLAR GO IN THE TOWN?



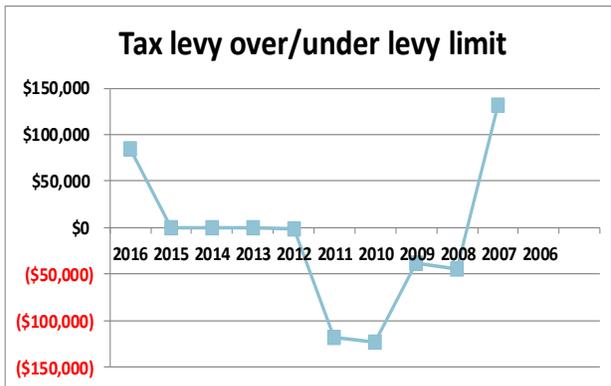
## BUDGET CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

- ⇒ **PUBLIC WORKS** includes roads and highways, airport, docks and harbors, and solid waste/recycling expenses.
- ⇒ **GENERAL GOVERNMENT** includes the Town Board, Town Administrator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Auditor, elections, town hall operations and legal expenses.
- ⇒ **PUBLIC SAFETY** includes police, fire and EMT/ambulance expenses.
- ⇒ **CULTURE, RECREATION AND EDUCATION** includes library, parks and recreation.
- ⇒ **\*ALL OTHER SERVICES** includes **CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT** (planning and zoning), **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** (health center and cemetery) and **OTHER FINANCING SOURCES** (designated funds and contingency fund).
- ⇒ **DEBT SERVICE** includes principle and interest payments on loans.
- ⇒ **CAPITAL PROJECTS** includes any work done to physical property owned by the Town; for 2016 it will be the roofs at the EMS and Winter Transportation buildings, MRF building improvements and sealing floors at Big Bay Town Park.

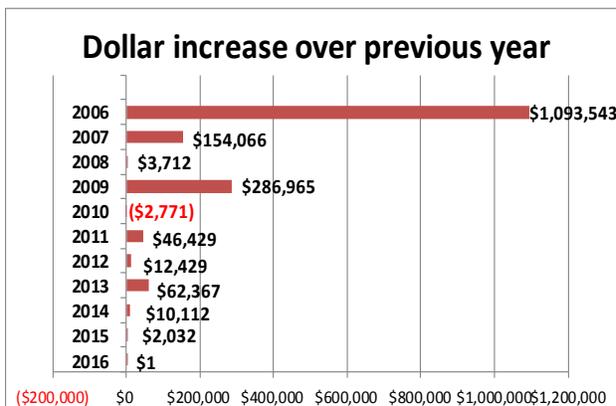
# LEVY OVER PAST 10 YEARS

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	Payable	Payable	Payable	Payable							
	in	in	in	in							
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Town's Levy	\$1,668,885	\$1,668,884	\$1,666,852	\$1,656,740	\$1,594,373	\$1,581,944	\$1,535,515	\$1,538,286	\$1,251,321	\$1,247,609	\$1,093,543
Town's \$\$ over previous yr	\$1	\$2,032	\$10,112	\$62,367	\$12,429	\$46,429	(\$2,771)	\$286,965	\$3,712	\$154,066	\$1,093,543
Town's % over previous yr	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	3.9%	0.8%	3.0%	-0.2%	22.9%	0.3%	14.1%	
	Extend debt			BBTP?				Gravel debt?		Sec 154 Storm project?	
Calculated Levy Limit	\$1,583,966	\$1,668,884	\$1,666,852	\$1,656,740	\$1,595,853	\$1,699,944	\$1,659,172	\$1,576,438	\$1,295,765	\$1,115,412	\$1,093,543
Change in levy limit	(\$84,918)	\$2,032	\$10,112	\$60,887	\$13,909	\$164,429	\$120,886	\$325,117	\$48,156	\$21,869	
Tax levy OVER levy limit	\$84,919	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,480)	(\$118,000)	(\$123,657)	(\$38,152)	(\$44,444)	\$132,197	

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



The chart on the left shows that a tax levy over the WI Dept of Revenue calculated levy limit has not been requested by the La Pointe Town Board since 2007 payable in 2008, or in eight years. Since 2008, the tax levy has been either at or below the levy limit.



The chart on the left shows the total amount in dollars the Town's levy increased over previous years, with the increase being \$1 for 2015 payable in 2016 over 2014 payable in 2015.

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

Jennie Sanders Martin, Town of La Pointe Assessor

Property assessment in Wisconsin can be confusing to say the least. It would be impossible to try to explain a system that has been in place since the 1940's in a brief article. With that said I will try to address some concerns that people have expressed.

The assessment process is just that. Assessment in Wisconsin is generated on a market-driven approach to value. Thus the value of property is achieved through the analysis of the properties that have sold in the year prior to the year of assessment. Value is divided into two forms - land and improvements. Improvements in the assessment world mean items that are placed on or under the land that are assessable by law. Examples would be buildings, driveways, shoreline improvements, wells, septic systems. Basically all items in Wisconsin are assessable unless defined in Wisconsin State Statutes 70.11 and 70.111 as exempt.

Property values may or may not increase or even decrease in a single year. It all depends on the market sales that take place in a given year.

Once the value of the property has been determined, this value is placed upon the assessment roll. With good information and cooperation between the assessor and property owner, the property valued is considered to be fair and equitable between all property owners in the taxation district. The local taxation district sets a budget by which it pays for all debts that exist in their jurisdiction. The debts are called levies and may consist of local tax, school tax, county tax, state tax and any other districts within the municipality that needs to levy money for the services that it provides. The assessor has no control over the levies.

It is for this reason that it is not possible to predict what will happen to your tax bill on your individual property without knowledge of what the township will do with the budget. Generally speaking, if ONLY your property increases in value, which never happens, and the budget remains the same for two consecutive years, ONLY your share of the property tax levy will increase. This is also true in reverse. However this will never happen. Thus to answer this question we look at the BIG picture. Property tax bills - taxes go up when the payment for services increases and taxes go down when payment for services decreases.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has published a booklet called a Guide to Property Owners. The booklet can be obtained via the DOR website: [WWW.WisconsinDepartmentofRevenue](http://WWW.WisconsinDepartmentofRevenue).

You can reach Jennie with any questions at 715-829-9312

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

⇒ When the levy limit was last exceeded?

ANSWER: The levy limit was last exceeded in 2007 Payable in 2008. This was done to cover the cost of the storm sewer project.

⇒ What more could be cut from the budget in order to not raise the Town's share of taxes at all?

ANSWER: There are programs, services and positions that could be cut from the budget; the cut would have to total **\$113,918**

⇒ What is the checkbook balance?

ANSWER: It is estimated to be **\$268,000** at the end of 2015, and **\$198,500** at the end of 2016.

⇒ What is the Town's growth in debt?

ANSWER: The Town's debt has actually decreased in the past 3 years. The Town has taken on no new debt since the Griggs approach project in 2013.

Roads equipment (410) and Griggs Approach loan of **\$44,860** will be paid off in **January 2016**

Chip/Crack Seal loan of **\$53,598** will be paid off in **August 2017**

Gravel purchase and Fire Truck loan of **\$192,697** will be paid off in **August 2020**

⇒ What is the percentage of personnel costs out of the Town's budget?

ANSWER: In 2015, personnel costs accounted for **48%** of the Town's total budget.

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Town Board will begin a strategic planning process in 2016, designed to come up with a longer-term plan for the Town. Strategic planning is a process to

- ⇒ Establish priorities on what you want to accomplish in the future and goals for how to accomplish them;
- ⇒ Force you to make choices on what you will do and will not do;
- ⇒ Pull the entire organization together around a single game plan for execution; and
- ⇒ Outline where resources (budget, staff, equipment, etc.) will get allocated.

Strategic planning will occur during Town Board workshops over the next year, and a written plan will be developed that will include goals, desired outcomes, the strategies for reaching the outcomes, and evaluation process of the results.



