



City of Mosinee

December 2016

Dear Mosinee Resident:

Amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season I hope this update finds you well. Here at City Hall, the business of our annual budget process is now complete. As noted in my update from last month I would like to use this monthly update as an opportunity to share some of the highlights from the 2017 budget with you.

The first item that most residents are interested in, of course, is taxes. We work extremely hard throughout the budget process to ensure that any increase in the tax levy is kept to a minimum. This year, I am happy to report that we will see only a 4.7% increase in the City's tax levy. While my hope would have been to actually report a decrease in the levy, this modest increase is driven by several factors, including debt service payments on the state trust fund loan that was necessary to repair and replace multiple pieces of public works equipment, another decrease in state shared revenue, and another increase in the cost of health insurance.

Despite the number of expenditures the City must regularly incur, I am happy to report that because we have kept our expenses low in the 2017 budget we have qualified for special, expenditure restraint aid from the State for the second year in a row. In 2015, we received \$0 in expenditure restraint aid from the State. In 2016 and 2017 budget cycles, however, despite the amount of expense we have had to take on to address numerous issues, we have managed to keep our expenses low in other areas and, consequently, we anticipate receiving over \$75,000 in aid from the two years combined. In addition to expenditure restraint, we will also be looking at refinancing an older bond issue to save tens of thousands of dollars in debt service payments over the remaining life of the bond.

Another item that I know is one of top concern for many residents is road repair. As I have mentioned in several past updates, we have accomplished numerous road repairs in our business park and throughout the City in 2015 and 2016. We were able to accomplish many of these repairs using tax dollars specifically generated by those areas in the form of tax incremental financing, so as not to burden the general fund. Other repairs, however, required a bond issue. Because the City has money left over from the bond issue, we have targeted additional road repairs for 2017. Because the debt service is already being paid on the bond issue, targeting additional repairs is not increasing budget expense in 2017. Fortunately, we have been able to accomplish more repairs than originally anticipated, having come in under budget on asphalt expense.

In other highlights, surely any homeowner will appreciate that there are many expenses incurred each year that are regular - heat, water, electricity, etc. There are also, however, those larger expenses that we all sooner or later need to find room for. The same is true at that City and, like many homeowners, we operate on a tight budget. One of the City's many property maintenance responsibilities includes the Mosinee Public Library. The library is badly in need of a new roof and furnace. Therefore, the City has allocated budget funds this year to address both needs in 2017. Another area of property maintenance concern is the former grocery store on the east side of Mosinee - formerly Ron & Lloyds. That property is presently in our tax incremental finance district, meaning that we can use the district's own tax dollars generated by property improvements in the district to address it. Therefore, funds have been allocated in the 2017 budget for tax incremental district # 3 that could be used to address this property.

Finally, another part of the City's annual budget is assessments for being a member of the Mosinee Fire District, which includes the City of Mosinee and the townships of Knowlton, Bergen, and Mosinee. This past year, I returned the Mayor's office to fill one of the City's two positions on the district board. Therefore, in addition to the City's annual budget process, I participate in the Fire District's annual budget process. As part of that process, I am happy to report that our audit has revealed a favorable amount of cash on hand in which case the board will be discussing how to most appropriately use some of that amount to either reduce future municipal levies or address capital expenditures that are long overdue. As we work toward updating our safety equipment, the district board recently approved the sale of one of outdated fire trucks, a 1984 tender. Scrap revenue will go toward the purchase of a new truck to be used as a follow up and off road vehicle.

For those interested in learning more about the details of the 2017 budget, please visit the homepage of our website where you will find a link to the 2017 budget documents. I want to wish every resident a safe and enjoyable holiday season. I look forward to updating you again in January.

Mayor Brent Jacobson



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Recycle Christmas Lights

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is collecting Christmas lights. Every year tons of light strings are thrown away and end up in landfills across the country. Habitat for Humanities collects all kinds of light strings – old or new, working or not. Worn out extension cords are also collected. Habitat for Humanities recycles the copper and plastic from the strings and uses the proceeds to assist low-income families in our community. **A drop box is available at City Hall – 225 Main Street.** For more information please call City Hall – 225 Main Street or HFH at 715-848-5042.



Winter Snowplowing Information

Snow season is here and along with snow comes slippery streets and icy sidewalks. Due to the fact that the State of Wisconsin has significantly cut the amount of annual aid payments to the City and forced staff reductions, the City will again be snowplowing with one less driver. **Similar to last year, it will take us approximately 4 hours longer to clear the City streets and alleys of snow.**



In order to make the job of snowplowing and snow removal easier for the Public Works Department, residents should keep the following in mind: City ordinances prohibit blowing or shoveling snow onto or pushing snow across any City street. Parking is also prohibited if a snow emergency is declared.

All sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling. Failure to do so may result in fines to the property owner. Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks safe and clear.

Every snowfall or snowstorm is different but in general we begin to plow, salt and sand when snow accumulations are about 1 inch on hills and busy intersections and 2 inches elsewhere. During heavy snows, plows concentrate on the Priority 1 streets during the day. A night plowing operation is then scheduled to clean all City streets. If you have any questions or concerns relating to snow plowing operations, please call the Public Works Dept. at 715-693-3840.

STREET PARKING RESTRICTED

Parking is not allowed during the hours of 2:00a.m. and 6:00a.m. on any street or highway from November 1 to April 1 in the City of Mosinee. For more information please contact the Mosinee Police Department – 715-693-2000

SIDEWALKS – SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

The owner/occupant of every building or unoccupied lot in the city abutting any street shall clean the sidewalk of snow or ice to the width of such sidewalk within 24 hours after the snow has ceased to fall and shall keep the sidewalk clear from ice and snow, provided that when the ice has formed on any sidewalk so that it cannot be immediately removed, the sidewalk shall be sprinkled with salt, sawdust or sand.