

Town of Round Lake – Public Budget Hearing Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall – 10625 N County Road A, Hayward, Wisconsin

1. Call to Order

- a. The Public Budget Hearing of the Town of Round Lake was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Town Chair Strandlund.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Certification of Proper Meeting Notice

- a. Clerk Leuschen certified that the meeting notice had been properly posted on the Town website, at the Town Hall, and at the Recycling Center in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. He confirmed that the notice met the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 19.84

4. Purpose of the Meeting

- a. The Chair explained that the purpose of the Public Budget Hearing was to present and receive public comment on the proposed 2026 Town Budget prior to consideration by the Town Board.

5. Presentation of the Proposed 2026 Budget

- a. The proposed 2026 Town Budget was presented and reviewed in detail. Key points presented during the hearing included:
 - i. The proposed total 2026 Town Budget was \$1,267,565.
 - ii. The budget reflected a reduction of approximately 13% compared to the prior year.
 - iii. The proposed levy was set at \$410,428, which represents the maximum allowable levy under state levy limits without additional voter approval.
 - iv. The Town's 2024 surplus of \$259,461 was applied toward the 2026 budget:
 - v. \$185,860 applied to balance revenues and expenditures
 - vi. \$48,601 allocated to the Fire Department equipment reserve
 - vii. \$5,000 allocated to the bridge reserve fund
 - viii. \$10,000 allocated to the paving reserve fund
 - ix. \$10,000 allocated to the equipment reserve fund
- b. A primary budget goal identified by the Town Board was reducing Town debt following the failure of a proposed levy increase at the October Town Meeting.
- c. The Town's debt was projected to decrease from \$376,863.70 in 2025 to \$264,651.70 in 2026.

- d. The Fire Department budget was reduced by \$30,000, based on updated year-end expenditure estimates, while additional funds were still directed to the Fire Department's equipment reserve.
- e. Additional allocations included:
 - i. \$700 for health and human services (portable restrooms)
 - ii. \$1,000 for culture, recreation, and education, which could support services such as ATV trails or contracted services from the Sherman and Ruth Weiss Community Library.
- f. These details were discussed during the hearing and reflected in the budget summary and public reporting

6. Public Comment

- a. Public comment was received during the hearing.
 - i. Virginia Chabek, Chair of the Land Use Planning Commission, spoke in favor of maintaining budget allocations that support the work of the Land Use Planning Commission.
 - ii. Pat Delaney, a property owner, commented on the Town's budget process, acknowledging the learning curve involved and encouraging the Board to seek additional training opportunities through organizations such as the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Department of Revenue. He expressed appreciation for the effort put into the budget development process.

7. Board Discussion

- a. Members of the Town Board discussed the budget process and reflected on lessons learned during the year, including:
 - i. The desire of many electors to review a draft budget prior to being asked to approve a levy.
 - ii. The importance of understanding revenue and expenditure timing earlier in the budget cycle.
 - iii. The intent to adjust the budget process in future years based on feedback received from the public and electors.

8. Adjournment

- a. Hearing no further questions, Chairman Strandlund made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.