



MINUTES

TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING

Continuation Meeting December 12, 2017 6:00 pm

- **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:03pm
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL:** Vetsch, Bissen, Albrecht, Pfiffner, Walsh
- **MAYOR PRESENTS PROPOSED 2017 TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2018**
Motion carried forward from 12/5 meeting by Vetsch to reduce Library levy to state mandated base rate of \$15,901, Pfiffner second. Mayor Walsh noted the meeting was tabled to gather information regarding the motion. City Attorney Wieser reported that, after conferring with the Minnesota Department of Education, the council can reduce the property tax levy amount for the library from \$21,000 to \$15,901.
- **DISCUSSION**
Hokah citizen Barb Bissen asked for a given reason for the reduction in property tax levy funds. Council member Vetsch replied that the moving of the money from the library fund to the general fund is to pay for operation of both the City Hall and the Hokah City Center due to the library staying in the City Hall building. There was further discussion between citizens of utilization of city buildings and utilization of funds for climate control and building operation. Kurt Carlson asked regarding possible Mediation services, Walsh and Wieser noted that the offered services are considered more training than mediation services, and the League of Minnesota cities has advised the city to handle issues through the city attorney. Patti Ziegler asked if these issues were brought up during city budget meetings, Walsh replied that the decision of the library to not leave City Hall after the budget meetings caused this decision. Librarian Shari Carlson requested clarification on the process; City Clerk Leitzen cited audio of the Building Committee meeting saying the committee voted to take no action but reserved the right to take action later. Discussion regarding the Building Committee's current status and purpose, and the possibility of holding future meetings at the request of Committee Chair Jerry Martell. Question regarding future use of Historic City Hall if the library moved out, Walsh replied that it would be maintained. Question from council member Bissen regarding a rumor of the sale of City Hall due to the lack of shoveled sidewalks. Question regarding vacancy of building and possible changes to insurance costs, replies that Heritage Room and Food Shelf still operate in the building. Question regarding the structural strength of floors in the Hokah City Center, and regarding Historic Bluff Country using the space currently for storage. Question from Librarian Carlson asking if the money would be moving from the Library fund levy to the General Fund levy. Vetsch confirmed it will go into the General Fund.

Vote:

Aye: Vetsch, Pfiffner, Walsh

Nay: Bissen, Albrecht.

Motion passed.

Motion to approved 2017 Tax Levy collectible in 2018:

General Fund: 225694.50

Library: 15,901

WWTP Bond: 53987.50

Total: 295,583

Motion Vetsch, second Pfiffner. Unanimous. Levy approved.

Adjournment: Motion Vetsch, Second Walsh. Unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned 6:32pm.