

Interlaken Town Truth in Taxation Public Hearing
Monday, 12 August 2019, 6:00 PM – 6:25 PM
Town Pump House, 236 Luzern Rd., Midway, UT

1. Call to Order.

Council Member Harrigan called the public hearing to order at 6:04pm.

2. Roll Call – Members Present:

Greg Harrigan, Mayor
Chuck O’Nan, Council Member
Sue O’Nan, Council Member
Marge Bowen, Council Member
Justin Hibbard, Council Member

Bart Smith, Town Clerk was present

3. Presentations:

Clerk Smith presented a summary of the changes proposed to the FY2020 Interlaken Town Budget that was presented to the public through a public hearing, and then passed by the council on 6/3/19 as the “Tentative Budget.” These changes, along with the proposed revised budget are attached to these minutes. Four of the five changes recommended are expense increases related to town clerk administrative costs, snow removal, water system repairs and improvements, and contract services related to completion of a water system rate study (reserve study). The remaining change is an adjustment to a fund transfer to cover water system repairs. Smith noted that this Truth in Taxation hearing was properly noticed as per State law, including a notice in the Wasatch Wave, the Utah.gov website, and the town website.

In order to fully fund the town’s FY2020 budget, including expenses and contributions to reserves, relocation of the town’s dumpsters, and additional expenses, the council is proposing an increase in the Wasatch County tax rate for Interlaken Town. The current auditor’s certified rate is 0.001596, with General Fund revenue of \$74,573. The proposed rate is 0.002483, with General Fund revenue of \$116,000. This information is provided as an attachment, as a capture of the state’s TNT website. Note that the \$116,000 revenue appears on the FY2020 budget in line 5 – “Annual Wasatch County Tax Assessment.” Smith presented a list of tax increase estimates for all the Interlaken Town lots. The average increase is \$233 annually per lot, minimum is \$8, maximum is \$1,391, and the median increase would be \$181.

Mayor Harrigan noted that there were no issues from the public during the 6/3/19 budget public hearing, and that these adjustments reflect changes resulting from new information regarding expenses not available in June.

4. Public Hearing Comment:

Jim McCasland, 284 Jungfrau, asked for clarification of the Water Revenue Expense of \$23,000, line 123e. Smith explained that this amount includes pump replacements as well as meter upgrades, and that’s the reason for the increase. McCasland also asked for clarification about future tax increases.

Mayor Harrigan noted that the request for a tax increase is to address our aging infrastructure, as well as our need to relocate the dumpsters. The town has a 10-year plan that was presented at the 6/3/19 public hearing. A copy has been attached to these minutes and has been available on the town website since June. Harrigan closed public comment as there were no further questions or comments. In this plan, there are no further tax increases proposed.

5. Council Comments and Discussion.

Harrigan mentioned that it was the council's choice to delay final approval of the budget until further review and after soliciting more feedback from the town. Bowen noted that she preferred that we pay a little more each year, than pay a large lump sum for an expensive repair. Sue O'Nan noted that these infrastructure improvements would have been necessary whether we were a town or the IMWC/HOA. There are sections of our roads that will have to be completely replaced. Smith noted that we have hired Utah LTAP to complete a road study. That will give us good information regarding the condition of the asphalt surface. We will also need more information regarding repair and maintenance of the shoulder areas.

6. Adjournment

Having no further public comment or council comment, Council Member Sue O'Nan moved to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Bowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM. Harrigan noted that the town council meeting will start next.