

A Special Meeting of the Peru Town Board was held on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at the Peru Town Hall. Those present were Mr. Don Covell, Supervisor; Mr. Tom Powers, Councilman; Mr. Cortland Forrence, Councilman; Mr. Brandy McDonald, Councilman; Mr. Pete Glushko, Councilman; and Mrs. Kathleen Flynn, Town Clerk.

The purpose of this meeting was to hold a Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Covell, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Forrence, seconded by Powers to open the Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget. Ayes 5 Nays 0 **Motion Carried**

Mr. Covell briefed those in attendance on the proposed budget.

Nancy Long. Refers to the article in the Press Republican indicating that there would be a 2.5% increase. Mrs. Long states that this statement is misleading to the taxpayers as it does not take into account the increase of assessed value. Mrs. Long states that in General and Highway, this is over 14 million dollars increase due to revaluation of properties only. This has nothing to do with new building. Mrs. Long states that 50% of properties in the Town Of Peru have increased.

Mrs. Long states that taxpayers need to understand that their overall tax bill will not increase 2.5%, they need to look at their assessments and calculate themselves. She states that her tax bill will be increased 10.44% with this proposed budget.

Vicki Kirby. Address the board stating that 2.5% increase is good but does not feel that it is good enough. Mrs. Kirby refers to the state that the economy is in and believes that the board could do better. Mrs. Kirby refers to different areas in the budget such as Youth and Park and Trail development could be looked at more closely. Things that do not benefit the whole community should be considered.

Ann Schmitt. Ask's the board if raises are being given to all employees. She refers to IBM recently laying off 280 people. Mrs. Schmitt states that Mrs. Kirby is correct and the board should continue to cut back the budget. Mrs. Schmitt states that she does not feel the employees should be receiving raises at all.

Craig Schmitt.

Addresses the board regarding the County Highway contract. He states that it was said that the Town Of Peru was to receive a letter stating that if the costs go up that the town would be reimbursed and costs would be adjusted. Mr. Schmitt states that there is no such letter. There is an e-mail from James Langley stating that the legislature would do the best that they can should the costs go up.

Mr. Schmitt then addresses many specific line items.

Secretary to the Supervisor. He tells the board that he thought that position was abolished and according to the preliminary budget presented, the salary has increased from \$26,269.00 to \$35,000.00

Highway Superintendent Salary has decreased 11%

Zoning Officer Typist position has increased 10%

Youth Commission employees has decreased 12%

Garage typist has increased 12%

Water Plant Operator decreased 1.6%

Sewage Collection decreased 18%

Over time hours increased from \$3,600.00 to \$12,000.00

Justices expense went from \$7,000 to \$10,000.00

Supervisor's Equipment went from 0-\$1,000.00

Line item #A14200400 Attorney Expense.

Regarding a legal settlement that was satisfied recently, and discussed at a board meeting, what exactly was the cost to the taxpayers.

Why is there a 40% increase in attorney expense going into 2009

Election expense has increased from \$6,000.00 to \$12,000.00

Data Processing has gone from 0 (past three years) and now it is \$10,000.00

Line item A16800420 (Data Processing) has gone from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00

Sewer and Health insurance increased 10% and all other insurances went down

Compares the Library funding to the Youth Commission and states that Youth is funded 34% less
Garage Expense has increased 67% from 2007 to 2008 and another 10% from 2008 to 2009
Mr. Schmitt asks the board if they have the opportunity to review the Fire District Budget.

Pau Kirby. States that the board has asked for community comments and he feels that the town board should review the Library, Youth Commission and Capitol Projects as he believes that there is money that could be trimmed off of those line items.

Motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Forrence to close the Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget at 8:50 PM. Ayes 5 Nays 0 **Motion Carried**

Set a date for the adoption of the 2009 budget.

Mr. Forrence states that he believes that the board should schedule another workshop on the budget.

Motion by Mr. Forrence, seconded by Mr. Powers to set a date of November 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM for a workshop on the 2009 budget. Ayes 5 Nays 0 **Motion Carried**

Motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Covell to set a date of November 18, 2008 at 7:00 PM to approve the 2009 budget. Ayes 5 Nays 0 **Motion Carried**

Extending the hours of the receptionist by two hours per day as needed.

Mr. Covell states that he believes that Civil Service has restrictions regarding this. Board members ask him to research this and report back at the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Forrence to table the motion to extend the hours for the receptionist by two hours per day until the next meeting when more information is obtained from Mr. Covell. Ayes 5 Nays 0 **Motion Carried**

Other Business.

Mr. Covell refers to State Insurance Fund handles all worker's compensation for the State. Mr. Covell believes that the town could save @ 25% in costs. Mr. Covell will obtain more information for the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Glushko to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. Ayes 5 Nays 0 **Motion Carried**

_____ **Supervisor** _____ **Councilman**

_____ **Councilman** _____ **Councilman**

_____ **Councilman** _____ **Town Clerk**