

**Minutes:**  
**TILDEN TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**Raising Town Tax Levy Discussion**  
**Saturday Feb. 3, 2018 @ 12 Noon**  
**Thursday Feb. 8, 2018 @ 7 P.M.**  
**Tilden Town Hall, 10790 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

**Minutes for Saturday Feb. 3, 2018**

- Daniel Adams called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Daniel Adams called roll – Daniel Adams-present, Daniel Reischel-present, and Wayne Bowe-present
- Clerk Steven Plendl verified that public notice was made by the Town Board by posting at the Town Hall, Town’s Recycling Center, Baier’s Bar, and Bresina’s Bar. It was noticed in the Chippewa Herald newspaper and on the Town’s website.

1. Daniel Adams lead a discussion about increasing Town of Tilden’s Property Tax Levy by \$30,000.00 per year until cancelled at a later date. Dan pointed out the increasing costs of paving roads, equipment to maintain Town roads & buildings, providing emergency services (ambulance & fire), Township liability insurances, and upcoming bridge and culvert replacements. He discussed upcoming expenses for the old landfill site too. He also listed several areas that the Township has made financial improvements in: The Town’s farm rent was increased before the last contract was signed and having dogs licensed by the Township. He explained that raising the Town’s portion of the property tax levy by \$30,000.00 would increase the Town’s portion of the property tax bill on a \$200,000.00 home by about \$50.00 over what it currently is. The Town’s current property tax levy \$196,727.00, which is 0.001611712 per dollar of valuation. By increasing the Town’s property tax levy by \$30,000.00 it would increase the Town’s property tax levy amount to \$226,727.00, which would be 0.00186 per dollar of valuation. The increase would be used to repair roads and prepare for future equipment replacement needs. Dan also mentioned the upcoming Chippewa Falls School District referendum for \$65 million dollars. The referendum would increase the Chippewa Falls School Districts property tax levy significantly. He mentioned that the Town Board is concerned about people on limited incomes because they will feel the increases most.
2. Dan asked the public for comment. There were five people in attendance. Dan asked each person their opinion about the proposed levy increase. Every person said that they believed the Town was being run as efficiently as it could be and that if the Town Board said that this was needed they believed it was. Dan asked those in attendance if they thought this should be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors or if there should be a referendum about it. Everyone thought that a vote at the Annual Meeting would be the best way to handle it. Dan asked them to tell their friends and family to come to Thursday’s meeting to help the Town Board make the decision on this issue. The Town Board was disappointed with today’s turn out. Dan also mentioned that at most Annual Meetings very few people showed up. He is concerned that just five or ten Town’s people will be able to vote in the increase. He would like more people to come to these meetings.
3. – Wayne Bowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Seconded by Daniel Reischel. Motion passed on voice vote.

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**Minutes for Thursday Feb. 8, 2018**

- Daniel Adams called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance  
- Daniel Adams called roll – Daniel Adams-present, Daniel Reischel-absent, and Wayne Bowe-present  
- Clerk Steven Plendl verified that public notice was made by the Town Board by posting at the Town Hall, Town’s Recycling Center, Baier’s Bar, and Bresina’s Bar. It was noticed in the Chippewa Herald newspaper and on the Town’s website.

1. Daniel Adams laid out the reasons for asking for the increase in the Town’s property tax levy. He cited similar reasons as he listed at the Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting which included wages the Town pays its workers, upcoming road repairs (chip sealing, pot holes, culverts & bridges), and future equipment replacement needs. He detailed the cost of replacing one of the 15-year-old plow trucks (see Tilden Town Board Meeting Minutes for Jan. 17, 2018 for details). There is a capitol fund but replacing one of the trucks drained it and this needs to be replenished. Dan then opened the discussion to public comments. One question was how long would this additional amount be levied for? Dan answered six to eight years after, which it will need to be reviewed by the Tilden Town Board. It was brought up about large Ag equipment being driven on the roads and possibly causing damage. Dan said any damage would have to be proven before action could be taken. Dan also stated that some of the roads that the Township owns are not constructed correctly. In the past some roads were just paved over existing roadbeds, which are actually laying on a clay base, which is unstable and prone to breaking up under vehicle traffic. It was also asked if building contractors are assessed for using the roads during home construction projects, they are not. When there has been damage in the past it was taken care of on a case-by-case basis. It was noted that were Xcel Energy buried cables under the road on 124<sup>th</sup> Street and it is possible to see where the cables crossed under the road. Dan would look into it, but if this happened 10 years ago there is little hope of any redress. Dan explained two options to implement the levy increase, referendum and Town meeting. After discussion with the six (6) people in attendance it was brought up how few people actually came to these two meetings. Some felt that the lack of people was due to poor communication, but it was pointed out that the meetings were noticed according to the law and that the Board members talked to members of the public who in turn talked to others. Still there must be a better way. There were comments made about the upcoming Chippewa Falls School District’s April referendum and it was hoped that the Town’s levy increase would not be confused with it. Dan said that the Town’s levy increase would affect all homeowners and landowners in the Township. If approved by the Town’s people it would happen in 2019. Asked how the funds would be used Dan answered only what was stated – nothing else. There was a misunderstanding about the affect of the levy increase. It would be about \$50.00 on a \$200,000.00 home. Most people thought that it was going to be more. They also said that it was not much and that most people could probably pay for it.
2. Dan then asked for public discussion and comments from the six (6) people in the audience. A discussion about how to move forward started. It was felt that a meeting of the Town’s people would be the best way to implement the levy increase. A referendum

would not provide an opportunity for discussion before the vote and that an open meeting of the Town's people would provide time to answer questions and address concerns better. Any vote on the Town's levy increase could not take place until sometime in September 2018, when the Town's levy amount is set by the States of Wisconsin. Any additional amount of levy would need a resolution by the Town Board and then action on the resolution by the Town's people at a special meeting before the Town people's meeting for the 2019 budget. Several people in the audience noted how positive this meeting was. Communication is important in going forward with this. Face-to-face meetings are always good but getting more people involved is important. Dan asked if any person objected to the \$30,000.00 increase of the Town's levy – no one objected. Dan asked if there should be a referendum or a Town meeting – Town meeting is what the people said.

3. Wayne Bowe made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Daniel Adams. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Clerk Steven Plendl 715-529-7438