

Town tax hike wins backing

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Cost of Jay Road work cited as cause for \$77,000 increase in 2014 tax levy

Town of Fredonia officials had little trouble explaining why local taxes will take a \$77,000 jump next year during last week's 2014 budget hearing.

The jump is related to the cost of financing the Jay Road reconstruction. The cost of the recently completed road project is \$452,000, with the town to receive \$140,000 in reimbursed state road aids once the bills are paid.

"We didn't have \$400,000 sitting around, so we had to borrow the money on a five-year loan to pay for the work," Supr. Jim Stemper told about two dozen residents who attended the hearing.

"I think we are taking as good care of our roads as any other town around."

The new budget calls for a tax levy of \$470,759, up from the 2013 budget of \$397,000. Total spending will increase from \$580,000 to \$734,000.

The tax rate will increase 18%.

Electors unanimously approved the tax levy, and three discretionary resolutions supporting outside donations of town funds.

Residents backed the recurring \$7,500 donation to the National Flag Day Foundation, \$600 to the Fredonia Little League and \$500 to Ozaukee Economic Development.

When asked by someone in the audience whether the Flag Day Foundation donation was based on need, Town Chairman Richard Mueller defended the ongoing support.

"I believe this is good use of town funds. It supports an event that draws national attention," Mueller said.

Scout Leader Jeff Lallensack said the Foundation maintains and operates the Americanism Center much like a community center.

"It is probably used as much as any facility in the community," Lallensack said, noting that Scouts, 4-H, veterans and senior citizens meet in the Waubeka building that was once a school.