November 11, 2026 **APPROVED on _____**
Town of Eau Pleine, Portage County
Proposed 2026 Budget Public Hearing & Special Town Meeting of Electors

Elected Officials Present: Chairperson Kurt Drexler, Supervisor Wayne Trelka, Supervisor Leif Erickson, Clerk Stacy Martin, Treasurer Wendi Erickson

Others Present: David Erickson, Brian Beaulieu, Roger Skrzeczkoski Sr, Susan Skrzeczkoski, Mary Erickson, Margie Wojcik, Jim Wojcik, Bonnie Fredrickson, Mark Fredrickson, Bill Kiggins, Jeff Stashek, Karen Dobbs, Roger Dobbs, Kathy Metzler, Carrie Drexler *(some arrived later in meeting, thus increasing vote numbers below)*

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Drexler. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. The town board asked the town electors to consider the adoption of Resolution No. 2026-04 endorsing town board Resolution No. 2026-03, which proposes that the town levy exceed the state allowable levy limit under Wis. Stat. § 66.0602, specifically a proposed tax levy which would exceed the allowable town tax levy for 2026, *after* adjustments, by 10.097%, for a dollar increase of $27,632. Many electors questioned the need for another permanent tax increase two years in a row. Board members reiterated that the proposed $27,632 increase is to pay the Rudolph Fire Department for their 2027 fee increase, which is generated from 0.1% of the real estate total equalized value for the Town, and that if the tax levy isn't increased for this amount with this resolution, the increased funds needed to pay the Rudolph Fire Department will be taken from culvert and road maintenance funds. It was also noted that the total town tax levy to be collected in 2027 ($301,294) will still be lower than the total town tax levy that was collected last year in 2026 ($303,525) because of the elimination of the tractor debt in 2026. This means that even with the proposed levy increase factored into the levy limit worksheet, the Town's portion of the tax bill will be slightly less in 2027 than it was in 2026.
Motion by Kurt Drexler as an elector to allow the Town of Eau Pleine to exceed the tax levy as specified in Resolution No. 2026-03. Seconded by David Erickson.
17 ayes / 0 nays / 1 abstain. Motion carried.
Resolution No. 2026-04 was adopted by the majority vote of electors and signed by Chairperson Drexler and Clerk Martin.

2. The town board asked the town electors to approve the 2026 total town tax levy (to be collected in 2027), pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 60.10(1)(a).
Motion by Carrie Drexler to approve the 2026 total town tax levy (property taxes) of $301,294 to be collected in 2027. Seconded by Wendi Erickson as an elector.
17 ayes / 0 nays / 1 abstain. Motion carried.

3. The town board asked the town electors to consider changing the established compensation for elective town offices, which will become effective with the start of the next term on April 20, 2027. Chairperson Drexler provided numbers he collected in his research on average salaries for Clerk, Treasurer, Chairperson, and Supervisor positions in small towns of similar size to the Town of Eau Pleine. Clerk Martin stated that the Town Clerk position requires 20 hours per week (averaged throughout the year) to complete all required administrative and election duties for the Town. Taking into consideration that the current Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer positions are paid $20 per hour, and that the Town's Road Supervisor is paid $27.81 per hour, she suggested using $25 per hour to calculate an appropriate salary for the Town Clerk position: 20 hours/week x 52 weeks/year x $25/hour = $26,000/year ÷ 12 months = $2167/month. The Clerk salary right now is $1200/month and hasn't been increased in several past terms. Current salaries within other Portage County municipalities were also reviewed. This data was recently collected and shared by the Town of Lanark Clerk. Part-time Clerk salaries range from $1315 to $2666 per month. Clerk Martin suggested $2000/month as a fair Clerk salary in the next term. Supervisor Erickson noted that in the past, the Clerk salary was set by electors first, the Chair and Treasurer salaries were then set as half the Clerk salary, and the Supervisor salary was set as half the Chairperson and Treasurer salaries. This was just a precedent, however, and not a resolution. Supervisor Erickson agreed that the Clerk position should be $2000/month for the heavy amount of workload the Clerk position entails.
Motion by Leif Erickson as an elector to increase the Town Clerk salary to $2000 per month, effective at the start of the next term on April 20, 2027. Seconded by Kurt Drexler as an elector.
17 ayes / 2 nays / 0 abstain. Motion carried.

Currently, the Town Treasurer salary is $600 per month. At the April 21, 2026, town elector meeting, the Treasurer salary for the next term starting on April 20, 2027, was cut in half to $300 per month to match the Supervisor salary because the duty to collect property taxes was removed and sent to the county. Chairperson Drexler would like to bring the Treasurer salary closer to the average Treasurer salary of $8,000/year, as the Treasurer position will be increasing time spent on managing the Town's finances.
Motion by Bill Kiggins to increase the Town Treasurer salary to $600 per month, effective at the start of the next term on April 20, 2027. Seconded by Mary Erickson.
21 ayes / 0 nays / 0 abstain. Motion carried.

Chairperson Drexler, Supervisor Erickson, and Supervisor Trelka felt the current salaries for their positions were adequate. Chairperson salary will remain at $600/month and both Supervisor salaries will remain at $300/month.

At 6:10 pm: **Motion by Chairperson Drexler to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Trelka.**

Respectfully submitted by: Stacy Martin, Town of Eau Pleine Clerk

RESOLUTION BY TOWN ELECTORS TO ENDORSE THE TOWN BOARD'S RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE LEVY LIMIT

Town of Eau Pleine, Portage County
Resolution No. 2026-04

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on town tax levies for 2026 and thereafter under Wis. Stat. § 66.0602;

Whereas, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(5) allows the town electors in a town with a population of less than 3,000 to exceed the maximum allowable levy limit by adoption of a resolution at a town meeting of the town electors;

Whereas, the town board has adopted a resolution supporting an increase in the town tax levy which would exceed the maximum allowable state levy limit for the Town of Eau Pleine;

Whereas, a special town meeting of the town electors has been called and properly noticed to consider the adoption of a resolution to endorse a town board resolution to exceed the state levy limits, specifically by increasing the allowable town tax levy for 2026 (to be collected in 2027) by 10.097%;

THEREFORE, the special town meeting of the Town of Eau Pleine, Portage County, Wisconsin, by a majority vote of the eligible electors duly assembled and voting on this 11th day of November, 2026, hereby resolves and orders as follows:

1. The town electors of the Town of Eau Pleine, Portage County, Wisconsin endorse the town board resolution to increase the town tax levy for 2026 (to be collected in 2027) by 10.097% over the state's allowable 2026 levy limit, for a dollar increase of $27,632 over the allowable 2026 town tax levy.

2. The town clerk shall post or publish this resolution as required by law under Wis. Stat. § 60.80(1)(a) within 30 days after its adoption.

Adopted this 11th day of November, 2026, at a Special Town Meeting of the Town Electors.

Number of town electors voting aye 17

Number of town electors voting nay 0

Number abstaining or not voting (if determined) 1

Signature of Town Meeting Chair: _____

Attested by Town Clerk: _____