

TOWN OF MISHICOT BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS,
AND SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025, 6:00 P.M.
MISHICOT VFW HALL
314 W. MAIN STREET
MISHICOT, WISCONSIN

**NOVEMBER 17, 2025 - BUDGET HEARING, SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AND SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Present for the board at the Budget Hearing, Special Town Meeting of the Electors, and Special Town Board Meeting were Dean Anhalt, Lee Stefaniak, Gordon Augustine, Tammy Thielbar and Connie Tesarik. Nearly 100 citizens of the town were also present.

BUDGET HEARING:

Chairman Anhalt called the budget hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.
Chairman Anhalt led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. Anhalt explained the purpose of the evening's meetings.

The 2026 Budget was presented. Revenues are projected to be \$647,217, and expenses are projected to be \$677,193, with the difference of \$29,976 met with cash balance applied. Mr. Anhalt fielded several questions from the citizens with regard to debt, capital project plans for the future, and various revenue lines. When there were no more questions from the attendees regarding the 2026 proposed budget, **Supervisor Stefaniak made a motion to adjourn the budget hearing at 6:25 p.m. Supervisor Augustine seconded the motion. Motion carried. All votes in favor. Hearing adjourned.**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

Chairman Anhalt called the Special Town Meeting of the Electors to order at 6:25 p.m.

ELECTORS TO CONSIDER LEVY EXCEEDANCE OF \$200,000

Chairman Anhalt explained that at the Annual Meeting of the Town in April a request was made by a motion of the citizens that the town board pursue a levy exceedance of \$200,000 in order to fund road improvements and replace road equipment as needed. In response to this request, the board agreed to pursue the tax levy exceedance. The process to request for levy exceedance is the same as the process used in 2019. The town board is not able to increase the taxes levied without the permission of the town citizens. Mr. Anhalt further explained that even the addition of another \$200,000 would not be enough to do all that is needed to fix all of the roads. The board does attempt to obtain more funding by way of grants and lobbying for more funds from the state, but there is great competition for the grants. Chairman Anhalt has written

grants for the town and knows that those reviewing the applications are looking for very specific issues and seem to prefer more urban areas. Chairman Anhalt was successful in obtaining a BIL grant to help fund the Samz Road project, which is a \$1.8 million project. This project is a joint project between the town and village. Samz Road is expected to be completed this fall.

The chairman continued by explaining some of the grant funds available through ARIP and LRIP. He stated that next year Saxonburg Road from Zander to Two Creeks and Gesser Lane will be chip sealed. He also explained the Assman Road Bridge was found to be failing late this summer during an inspection. The road will be opening soon with a one-lane bridge with a 30-ton limit until such time as funding can be obtained. Mr. Anhalt said the town might be able to incorporate the bridge replacement into an ARIP grant. One setback is that money must be spent upfront to pay for engineering. Funding comes after the project, not before. If the town had \$200,000, it could pursue the ARIP or LRIP grants. These grants are cyclical and come up for the towns every 6-8 years.

Mr. Anhalt also explained the differences between the towns. Not all have the same valuations, miles of road, shared revenue aid, or utility aid payments for things such as solar panels and the nuclear plant in the Town of Two Creeks. With the extra funds, they are able to afford the outlay for the LRIP/ARIP grants.

The chairman also briefly discussed the difference in valuation of farmland vs. other land in the town. There are 10,827 acres of prime farmland in the town. They are currently assessed at \$276 per acre, which is the amount they are taxed on.

The next item he explained was the difference between open enrollment, which are students outside the district, and those from inside the district. The district receives \$11,712 per student in state funds. The school district receives only \$10,102 for each student from outside the district. Of the 968 students in the district system, 207 are non-resident students. Twenty-one percent of the population are not in our district. When there is a referendum passed, only the district property owners will pay for it.

Mr. Anhalt opened public input at 6:35 p.m.

ARIP grants were discussed. The road chosen for the grant would need to fit the grant requirements being applied for. One person asked about Assman Road and truck traffic on the bridge. There is a 30-ton limit on the road. No weighted trucks are allowed; however, they may run empty.

Supervisor Stefaniak said Chuck Hoffman had once said that chip sealing is a waste of money. But Mr. Stefaniak said he did not agree. As chairman, he had been faced with spending \$80,000 on a new bridge deck. He decided to spend \$3,000 on a chip seal instead and got another 8 years out of the deck. A double chip seal can be good for 10-15 years.

Chairman Anhalt gave a short history of the levy limits, which were imposed in 2005. Historically, the town used to pave one mile per year, but after the tax levy freeze and prices doubling for road work, that was no longer possible. The increase in cost was mainly due to oil prices for road paving materials. He also noted that a new plow truck will be needed in the future. The oldest of the two trucks is 20 years old. The second truck is nearing 10 years old.

Brian Benzinger supported pre-funding an ag road for an ARIP grant. He also brought up all the trucks hauling manure.

Rob Barthels stated he was in favor of the increase and would like to see the town go after more grants.

Chairman Anhalt also said the town was considering going to a fee for fire services. But under state law, any savings would be reduced by 2013 fire protection costs. Doing so could result in a net gain of \$75-\$80,000. Kelly Gretz, who has been on the Tisch Mills Fire Department for 45 years, stated that the Town of Franklin tried moving to a fee system for fire protection, but it did not work. Homeowners would not pay the fee charged if they were not the ones who called for service.

One citizen asked where the \$200,000 amount came from. Mr. Anhalt said it was the amount of the citizen request made at the April Annual Meeting. The person making the initial request was a former chairman of the town. A citizen asked what \$200,000 would do. Mr. Anhalt replied that it would allow the town to pursue grants. Kelly Gretz said he supports the request and that he also supported the initial request. This is the second time a request to exceed the levy has been made since 2019. This request is made for roads and equipment as originally requested.

One property owner requested that the town develop a capital plan for what will be done in the future, perhaps a projection over 5 to 10 years.

Another property owner would like to see a sunset clause in the request.

Susie Dirkmann brought up the school district levy. She said it will be going up from \$6.43 to \$7.37 per \$1,000 of value this year.

Some of the potential projects listed by Chairman Anhalt were Steiners Corners Road; Fox Lane; Tapawingo Road; Saxonburg Road; Benzinger Road; Cherney Road; and Tisch Mills Road. Circle Drive cost \$110,000 for a half mile in 2022-2023. Currently, it costs approximately \$500,000 to grind and pave one mile. It will cost \$250 to \$360,000 to replace the bridge on Assman.

Gary Novitski asked what amount should be requested if \$200,000 is considered a band aid. How much would we need? Mr. Anhalt responded that it is a balancing act

to do what we can do better. One citizen asked about agricultural equipment and its effect on the roads. Chairman Anhalt said we would need to build those ag traveled roads to ag standards. The problem comes with who would police the overweight vehicles. Policing is very difficult in the town. Law enforcement does not take the problem seriously. One suggestion was that farmers pay for the road damage. Chairman Anhalt said that the police are the ones that have the scales. It is really almost impossible to enforce.

George Chase moved to go to vote on paper for Resolution 2025-7, “Town Electors to Endorse the Town Board’s Resolution to Exceed the Levy Limit,” (rather than hand or voice vote). Motion was seconded by Kelly Gretz. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Voting on paper ballots began at 7:15 p.m. and ended at 8:05 p.m. The votes were tallied by Amy Horstman and Janet Mueller, two election inspectors of the town. Ninety-nine people voted - 47 Yeas; 52 Noes. Motion failed. The request to increase the levy by \$200,000 was unsuccessful.

ELECTORS TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 TAX LEVY COLLECTED IN 2026

Chairman Anhalt stated that the town citizens had given the town board the authority to set the levy for 2025 back in April at the Annual Meeting. Having citizen approval, the town board will set the levy at the allowed amount of \$347,464, during its December 1, 2025, regular monthly meeting.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING:

2026 SUMMARY BUDGET

Supervisor Stefaniak moved to adopt the Town of Mishicot 2026 Summary Budget as printed, without the additional levy. Motion seconded by Supervisor Augustine. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Stefaniak moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion seconded by Supervisor Augustine. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

These minutes were taken at the Budget Hearing, Special Town Meeting of the Electors, and Special Town Board Meeting on November 17, 2025, and recorded here on November 25, 2025, by:

Connie Tesarik – Clerk