

**TOWN OF BUCHANAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01**

**RESOLUTION FOR AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM REGARDING
FUNDING MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT STREET IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Town has 45.97 miles roadway system to maintain and reconstruct for public safety and commerce. Approximately 51.40% of the Town's roads, or 23.65 miles, are rated fair to very poor. The Town has transportation infrastructure maintenance and repair needs;

WHEREAS, the funding is not currently available to sufficiently make progress on these maintenance and repair needs;

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted a modified Special Assessment Policy in September 2018 as an alternative method to aid in the financing of street improvement projects;

WHEREAS, another method to finance street improvement projects being explored by the Town Board is a Transportation Utility Fee;

WHEREAS, another method to finance street improvement projects is to ask the electorate via binding referendum if there is a desire to increase the property tax levy;

WHEREAS, the Town Board is interested in enhancing democracy by giving the citizens of the Town a voice, advising what alternative method is preferred;

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §7.15(2)(d) provides for the Town Board to conduct a Town-wide referenda for advisory purposes;

WHEREAS, an Advisory Referendum would provide guidance to the Town Board regarding the will of the Town of Buchanan electorate on this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Buchanan, Outagamie County, Wisconsin, hereby authorizes and directs that a Town-wide Advisory Referendum be conducted to be held with the April 2, 2019 general election, that Town of Buchanan staff and officials take any and all actions necessary to achieve this, and that the Advisory Referendum question to be presented shall be as follows:

Question:

The Town of Buchanan roadway system is 45.97 miles. In 2017, 51.40% of the Town roads, or 23.63 miles, were rated fair to very poor. The largest local sources of revenue supporting transportation infrastructure expenses are the property and road maintenance tax levy. Due to State imposed financial constraints, these mechanisms do not provide adequate revenue to maintain and reconstruct the roadway system. The Town is limited to increasing the tax levy by the percentage of annual net new construction. In the past four years, the average increase in the tax levy to support Town services including street improvement projects has been 00.80%. To

have the capacity to finance transportation infrastructure and maintain and improve road conditions additional funding is needed.

One option is Special Assessments, wherein a benefiting property owner in a street improvement project area pays for the cost of the storm sewer, driveway apron, ditching and/or curb and gutter. The individual special assessment amounts will vary, dependent on the project, and may cost up to \$20,000 per parcel.

A second option is a Transportation Utility Fee, wherein a property owner is annually charged a fee based on the land use and the estimated number of trips generated. The estimated annual fee for a transportation utility charge ranges from a residential–single family fee of \$210.00 per year to a commercial fee of \$88,000.00 per year.

A third option is to ask the electorate for a Property Tax Levy Increase, wherein a binding referendum would be put on the ballot for a vote. An average assessed single family home value of \$227,700.00 would see a \$426.00, or 56%, increase in their Town taxes compared to 2018.

All three options would generate approximately \$1,250,000.00 in revenue and provide sufficient funds to support street improvement projects.

Should the Town of Buchanan rely principally on Special Assessments, a Transportation Utility Fee or a Property Tax Levy Increase to supplement the cost of street improvement projects?

- A. Special Assessments
- B. Transportation Utility Fee
- C. Property Tax Levy Increase

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED, that a Notice of Referenda shall be published by the Buchanan Town Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements, and that any other necessary actions be taken by Town officials and staff to hold the Referenda as stated above.

Adopted this 22nd day of January, 2019



Mark McAndrews, Town Chairperson

ATTEST:


Cynthia Sieracki, Clerk

Motion to Approve Resolution 2019-01 made by: Kavanaugh/Reinke
Votes:

Title	Name	Aye	Nay	Other
Supervisor I	Lawrence	X		
Supervisor II	Reinke	X		
Supervisor III	Kavanaugh	X		
Supervisor IV	Walsh	X		
Chairperson	McAndrews	X		

Posted: January 23, 2019