

**CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS COUNCIL
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES OF 12-01-03**

The City Council of Pelican Rapids conducted the 2004 Budget Hearing on Monday, 12-01-03, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 350 N. Broadway. Mayor Wayne Runningen, Council Members Ben Woessner, Dave Gottenborg, Denise Magnusson and John Waller, III, were present. Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson, Mark Pierce, Kim Pierce, Ken Rittmueller, Roger Schleske, Lou Ann Schleske, Dion Schleske, Anette Zierke, Len Zierke, Marlan Evenson and Dean E. Nelson were also present.

Hearing called to order by Mayor Runningen.

Administrative Assistant Richard A. Jenson explained the Truth In Taxation process.

Mayor Runningen explained about 2003 loss of Local Government Aid (LGA) and Council's decision to not tax back for the loss of 2003 LGA. 2004 LGA losses are impacting the 2004 budget. The Budget Committee met in the afternoon and reduced the 2004 Proposed Budget.

Members of the public present asked if percentage increase was the same to every property owner. Mayor Runningen explained the valuation process. People discussed property values.

Dion Schleske asked what the process is for reducing the budget. Otter Tail County (OTC) will recalculate taxes when 2004 Budget is finalized.

People were advised to see OTC Auditor regarding their tax spread questions and the OTC Assessor about valuation increases.

Jenson said he received several calls expressing concern for increase in taxes. Callers included Rick Fossen, Rick Gail and Mel Zierke.

LGA should go up again in 2005.

Mayor Runningen closed the hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Richard A. Jenson
City Clerk