



Public Hearing

Minutes

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location: Dutch John Community Center 530 South Blvd.

Public Access

Meeting access is available electronically. See <https://dutchjohn.gov/pages/calendar> for more details.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held by the Dutch John Town Council to receive comments on the proposed tentative budget for the 2026 fiscal year that runs from 7/1/2025-6/30/2026. The budget may be viewed on the Town's website: dutchjohn.gov or a direct link [here](#).

1. Proposed Budget FY26

Minutes:


Butch called the public hearing to order at 7:00pm

- Attendance
 - Council & Town Members: Butch Johns, Harriet Dickerson, Amy McDonald, Al Pulham, Sandy Kunkel (online), Allen Parker (online)
 - Kerri and Frank Nakamura, Jared Marquis, JayDee Guymon (online), Oran Hatch
- Jared Marquis, town resident, asked if property tax was guaranteed. Butch explained that it's not guaranteed but the budget does assume the incorporation of property tax. Jared stated that it appeared the sales tax was decreasing but property tax was increasing. As a property owner, he doesn't agree with paying additional property taxes. He would rather have sales or usage taxes over property taxes.
- Amy referenced the calculator used to estimate taxes and walked through an example with Jared to show how raising the sales tax could generate the \$100K expected from the proposed property tax.
- Butch clarified that the percent being used to calculate the tax is provided by the state.
- Oran Hatch, town resident, stated that he was against property tax. Butch clarified that the public hearing is on the budget but that his comment was still heard and taken into account.
- In response to this comment, Jared Marquis amended his previous statement to note that

he is against basing the budget off of the incorporation of a new property tax.

- Amy asked Kerri Nakamura about the effort and impact from lowering the rate. Kerri reminded us that the rate adopted would occur after the August 13 hearing. After tonight the Town cannot go above the proposed rate tonight but the Town can go below that rate. Kerri also clarified for the records that the 100k is to fund the public services which the Town does not currently have the income to support.
- Regarding the budget, Amy proposed adding a small academic scholarship (\$500) to support continued education. Harriet agreed, suggesting an age range for eligibility to account for high school juniors/seniors who may change their plans, as well as young adults returning to apply after reassessing their goals.
- Jared asked about why the general expenses are increasing by 253%. Butch and Amy stated that it was largely to cover public safety / fire / ems services. Butch stated that there is a contract in place for EMS. Jared asked if the EMS is full-time coverage, to which Butch stated that it was. There was discussion back and forth about how realistic the budget was to reflect this cost. Jared believes that while the increase is significant it does not seem to be high enough to pay the salaries of full-time EMTs. Butch tried to explain that a good portion of man hours would be volunteer from EMTs in training.
- Amy also pointed out that there is more money in the budget for employees which wasn't there prior which added to the 253% increase. Also, the money budgeted is for the max number of hours worked.
- Al Pulham expressed concern that the plan is a gamble—assuming the property tax will pass and generate revenue. He still questions the need for a full-time EMS, noting the town doesn't experience enough emergencies to justify it.

Contact: Amy McDonald (amcdonald@dutchjohn.org 801-243-1463) | Minutes published on 06/29/2025, adopted on 06/25/2025



Rachel Clutter
Deputy Clerk