

**Special Meeting
St. Clair Township**

DATE: December 7, 2010

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Clair Township
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Buchanan, Supervisor
Mary Carroll, Clerk
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Greg Bridgman, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Mark Burk, Hwy Commissioner

Roll Call:

The special meeting of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Buchanan with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. All present except Assessor Knee.

Public Comment: None

Business Items:

a. Illinois American Water Company Discontinuance Agreement - Supervisor Buchanan asked the board members to review the document. He explained it gives the Township the right to turn off the water of delinquent sewer customers and laid out the process in which to do it. After some discussion, Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the Discontinuance Agreement. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. Trentman (No), Bridgman (Yes), Schobert (Yes), Barnes (Yes), Buchanan (Yes). No -1, Yes - 2. Motion carries.

b. Tax Levy - Supervisor Buchanan reviewed a few changes that were made to the tentative budget from the last review. He asked for questions from the Board. Trustee Bridgman asked why there was a shortage. Supervisor Buchanan explained that the Township was approximately \$102,000 short mainly because of two reasons: 1) Money was now being spent out of the Park Fund to care for the parks that was incorrectly taken from the Sewer Fund in the past; and 2) He said the general assistance cases went through the roof this year. In particular, the medical expenses were extremely high.

He said he was proposing to raise the levy by \$50,000 to help alleviate a portion of the shortfall. He said that because the Road District will be reducing the levy by \$75,000, this would be an overall decrease to the taxpayers.

Trustee Schobert passed out another scenario for the board members to review which would require a \$11,000 tax levy increase. He felt this method would be better because it used the extra money in the general fund rather than raising the levy so much. Supervisor Buchanan said he felt that the Township needed to have a least a three month emergency fund, and by using Trustee Schobert's plan it may cut us short in the case of an unexpected expense. In addition, Supervisor Buchanan was concerned that this would only alleviate the shortfall by a small amount, and an even bigger tax increase would be needed in two or three years. Trustee Bridgman was against passing debt to future taxpayers. Trustee Trentman said he was against the levy for several reasons but did not state the reasons.

Supervisor Buchanan made a motion to approve the Resolution Estimating Amounts Necessary To Be Levied For the Year 2010 in the estimated amount of \$314,000 and to follow the appropriate rules for a public hearing. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman (No), Bridgman (Yes), Schobert (No), Barnes (Yes), Buchanan (Yes). No-2, Yes-3. Motion carries.

Trustee Schobert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk