

Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Public Hearing

DATE: June 29, 2009

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Trentman
Dean Wallen

Roll Call:

The Budget & Appropriation Ordinance Public Hearing of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Tim Buchanan. Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call found that all board members were present. Assessor, Robert Knee was absent.

Public Comments and Questions

Supervisor Buchanan announced the purpose of the Public Hearing and asked for questions or comments from the audience regarding the budget and appropriation ordinance. There were no questions or comments.

Board Discussion and Action

Supervisor Buchanan announced that the road and bridge worksheet would be reviewed first.

Trustee Schobert pointed out the worksheet looked good, but line items 1-11 (Administration) and 1-41 (Maintenance) did not pull into the Ordinance document correctly. Commissioner Burk noted this and it would be corrected.

Commissioner Burk pointed out to the Board that the line item for road and fuel was money that the county oversees, not the township. It is used for items such as salt, rock, oil & chip. Not concrete.

Trustee Barnes asked if the health insurance is bid out? It was explained the insurance is maintained through CMS (Central Management Services) a state consortium who bids out to providers on behalf of the participating municipalities.

Trustee Schobert noted that line item 533.4 (Medical Services) was on the worksheet but did not carry over to the printed ordinance. After some discussion, it was decided it will be added to the general Professional Services category (Line 533).

Trustee Trentman said he noticed an advertisement in the Belleville News Democrat for an Invitation to Bid for a mini-excavator. He asked what this would be used for? Commissioner Burk replied that it would be used for ditching. He said this would be more efficient and it is more effective than a backhoe. It is smaller and therefore, only uses one lane of road and prevents the road from being closed.

Trustee Trentman asked if the Township is going to purchase a tar machine also. Commissioner Burk said a tar machine is being purchased. It will save the Township money and also save the streets from wear and tear.

Trustee Bridgman noted there were two line items for Small Tools (653). Commissioner Burk explained that was correct and those two lines items total together on the Ordinance document. Supervisor Buchanan mentioned that should be cleaned up on the worksheet for future. It only needs to show up once on the worksheet.

Supervisor Bridgman asked what part of revenue taxes does the township keep? It was explained that after the municipal share was paid to the communities of Shiloh, O'Fallon, Swansea and Fairview Heights, the remainder was kept for the Township.

Trustee Trentman asked what the \$450,000 for Line Item 860 Road Improvements would be used for? Commissioner Burk said that approximately \$300,000 would be used for the Villa Madero project. He said there was a Public Notice for Bids in the paper this week for this project. He estimated that roughly \$30,000 would be saved on this project because rather than hiring out an outside consultant to be the site manager, Commissioner Burk would do this himself. In addition, he said the curbs will be done in house. He said he a highly capable group of workers and this will also save the Township money by doing it in

house. He further added that the machines that are being purchased will be bought and paid for by the money that will be saved by doing the curbs with Township workers.

Trustee Bridgman asked if some of the money allocated would not be used since there would be a savings by using in house workers? Commissioner Burk believed that all the money would be used to get Township roads in shape.

Trustee Bridgman wondered if some money should be kept in reserve? Commissioner Burk explained that more of this money would be spent than in the past. Trustee Schobert added that the reason the balance is so big currently is because the past administration was unable to get the easements to complete the 11th Street project; and therefore, the money was held up.

There were no more questions regarding the Road and Bridge Budget. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the Ordinance with the changes that were discussed. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan asked for questions and comments regarding the St. Clair Township Budget.

Trustee Bridgman asked about the line item for retirement fund and wanted to know if this was for the employees of the Township. It was explained that this was only for the elected officials (Supervisor and Commissioner).

Trustee Trentman asked if elected officials pay went up. Supervisor Buchanan said it went up approximately 12%.

Supervisor Buchanan added that he did budget a little more for training this year in case it was needed for the new officials. He also said the bonds went up and contingency line item went up. He said the contingency budget held for things you cannot foresee.

Trustee Trentman wanted to know what the total expenditures is. He was directed to page 2-14. A total of \$307,800.

Supervisor Trentman inquired as to how much we budgeted for General Assistance? \$36,650. Supervisor Buchanan added that the General Assistance Administrator's cost is divided between the sewer fund and general assistance because the employee does work for both general assistance and sewer (i.e. rent, office space, etc.) If more general

assistance is needed, he pointed out that money could be transferred from town fund to general assistance.

There was further discussion on what the requirements for general assistance were and how the monies were allocated.

Trustee Bridgman inquired about line items 594 (Equipment Rental) and 811 (Park Construction) and wanted to know if there were plans for park construction. Supervisor Buchanan said there were no immediate plans, but the money could be used for repairs of our current parks. Buchanan suggested that all the elected officials tour the parks: Centennial Park in Swansea, Loop Creek Park (between Old and New Lincolnshire), Wolf Branch tennis courts and roller rink, and Whiteside tennis courts.

Trustee Schobert added that the tennis courts at Loop Creek Park were damaged from a car that drove on the courts and tore them up. He felt that part of the repair should be covered by insurance. Supervisor Buchanan said he would look into this.

In addition, Supervisor Buchanan pointed out line item 387 (IDNR Grant). This was a grant from Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources that was issued for mine subsidence.

Trustee Bridgman wanted more information about the CDs that were held. Supervisor Buchanan referred him to page 8-14 of the Appropriation Ordinance where it showed details on all the CDs held. It was further added that these were there to draw interest income.

Trustee Bridgman asked why the Engineering Fees were higher than what our actual spending was? Trustee Schobert replied it was budgeted higher just in case of emergencies.

Supervisor Buchanan notified the Board the reason line 578 (Sewage Treatment) was budgeted so much higher because Swansea is building a new sewer plant and our rates will go up. He said we need to be prepared for this increase.

Trustee Bridgman asked what the loan on line item 740 was. Trustee Schobert replied this was a 20 year loan for the interceptor project on Hartman Lane. He said it was through the IEPA and was close to being paid off.

The only change that was noted on the Town fund was that Section 5. The total dollar amount was stated, but in addition to the dollar figure, it should be written out as well.

Trustee Barnes made a motion to accept the Town Budget with the correction noted above. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan asked if there was anything for the good of cause? No replies.

Trustee Schobert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor. Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk