

Budget Hearings

St. Clair Township & St. Clair Road District

DATE: March 22, 2016
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg.
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL

CALL TO ORDER

The St. Clair Township and St. Clair Road District Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Barnes
Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis, Greg Hipskind
Absent: none

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: Terry Bruckert, Bruckert, Gruenke, & Long, PC
About 85 attended the Road Hearing.
See attached sign-in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Barnes announced the time for public comment. He informed those in attendance each would be allowed three minutes to make their comments. There were multiple incidents of attendees conceding their three minutes to others to allow completion of statements.

Public comments for the most part were focused on Road Commissioner Kernan hiring a fifth employee. Vladimir Halupa, Jill Halupa, Dean Koopman, Greg Hipskind, Sue Gruberman, Jeff Carmack, Mike Greenfield, Jana Moll, Dan, Terry Meyer, Bob Trentman, Juan Sanchez, Alan Thorpe, Rick Shavey, and Katie Smith spoke in support of Mr. Kernan hiring a fifth employee.

Tim, Buchanan, Teresa Peters, Steve Duff, Mary Carroll, Robert Goins, Keith Sturgis, John Frazier, Dave Barnes, Tom Black, David Donnelly, Mary Thurman, Lance Wood, and Tom Gagin, were critical of Mr. Kernan because of his disregard of the board's decision to not appropriate funds for a fifth employee in the 2015/2016 budget.

Guy Wilson and Cindy Shower stressed the imperative need for the board to work together.

Joyce Johnston suggested looking for grant money to pay for roads.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- St. Clair Township Budget Ordinance 2016-T1 – Supervisor Barnes pointed out corrections/changes on some line items in the budget provided. In the Park Fund, Park Construction (line item 03-00-811) was increased \$95,000 to \$145,000 to include the amount of a project currently in process and in the 2015/2016 budget that will be finished and paid during the 2016/2017 fiscal year. In the Sewer Fund, Wages (line item 08-00-421) was reduced from \$425,000 to \$375,000; Social Security/Medicare (line item 08-00-461) was reduced from \$32,292 to \$30,000; IMRF (line item 08-00-463) was reduced from \$64,000 to \$57,000; and Sewage Treatment by Swansea (line item 08-00-578) increased from \$0 to \$10,000. Supervisor Barnes also pointed out Miscellaneous Adjustments (line item 08-00-362.4) in the amount of \$1.4M was included should the Trentman v. St. Clair Township lawsuit, when settled, require a payment. Trustee Wells suggested increasing Attorney Fees (line item 08-00-533.2) from \$75,000 to \$100,000 because of the pending lawsuit. Supervisor Barnes asked for a motion to approve St. Clair Township Budget Ordinance 2016-T1 as presented with the changes to line item 03-00811 to \$145,000, line item 08-00-461 to \$30,000, line item 08-00-463 to \$57,000, line item 08-00-578 to \$10,000, and line item 08-00-533.2 to \$100,000. Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve the budget with the changes as stated. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipskind. Motion passed.
- St. Clair Road District Budget Ordinance 2016-R1 – Road Commissioner Kernan announced he lowered his budget \$800,000 in hopes of persuading the board to allow him to hire a fifth employee. After some discussion about planned projects and the fifth employee Road Commissioner Kernan wants to hire, Trustee Sturgis made a motion to approve the Road Budget with Wages (line item 06-00-421) reduced from \$345,200 to \$250,000, Social Security & Medicare (line item 06-00-461) reduced from \$27,000 to \$23,000, and IMRF (line item 06-00463) reduced from \$55,000 to \$41,000. Discussion followed about the concern of Road Construction (line item 06-00-860) being lowered more than \$450,000 than was spent in 2015/2016. Trustee Sturgis withdrew his motion. Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve the budget (St. Clair Road District Ordinance No. 2016-R1) with Wages (line item 06-00-421) reduced from \$345,200 to \$250,000,

Social Security & Medicare (line item 06-00-461) reduced from \$27,000 to \$23,000, and IMRF (line item 06-00463) reduced from \$55,000 to \$41,000, and Road Construction (line item 06-00-860) increased from \$250,000 to \$550,000. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipskind. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m. Trustee Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: May 24, 2016