

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, May 29, 2014, 5:00p.m.
3461 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453

MINUTES

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Brad Rudich, Trustee Jonathan Phillips and Trustee Roy McIlwaine, Treasurer Lori Babinski.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Acting Township Manager Aaron Sheridan

Public Comments. Wester opened to public comment. None.

Approval of Agenda. Wester asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda, or changes to the consent agenda. None.

Correspondence. None.

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing for Budget Review of Amendments to 2013-2014 Saugatuck Township Budget. Wester asked Sheridan for a brief synopsis of budget changes. Sheridan stated that budget is adopted by department. Amended budget shows a \$27,500 transfer to fund balance. Which shows the township has saved money. Sheridan asked if anyone had questions on the amendments. McIlwaine commented on Assessor's work in Homestead denials, which saved over \$7,000. McIlwaine asked about Cable TV income increase in income. Rudich stated that prior year payment was received late and was not budgeted for, but second payment did come in. McIlwaine made the motion to approve the 2013-2014 Budget Amendments, with a second by Wester. No further discussion. Roll call vote: Rudich, Babinski, Phillips, McIlwaine, Wester all vote yes. Motion passes 5-0.

2014-2015 Budget Workshop for Saugatuck Township. Audience member Joe Milauckas, Lakeshore Dr., commented on Road Millages and expenses. Milauckas commented that previously the Township operated on (1) mill fifteen years ago, for maintenance of roads, and an additional mill was voted on to blacktop dirt roads. Milauckas asked the board to re-examine the proposed road plan/budget to determine if the board could continue to provide necessary road maintenance and save Saugatuck Township taxpayers money by deciding to levy less than the full (2) mills, since most of the major road re-construction projects have been completed. Sheridan explained that fund balance is not increasing every year. The road expenses are paid prior to winter tax collection, the fund balance has been decreasing for the past 2 years. Culvert washouts can happen at any time and cost in excess of 100,000, and unbudgeted items like the Maple Street repairs can wipe out the fund balance. The 5 year road plan was adopted by the Township Board in April. Sheridan stated the fund balance needed to be available for unexpected repairs. Milauckas agreed that (1) mill is no longer sufficient, however suggested that the full 2 mills may be more than is necessary for maintenance and unexpected repairs. The Township Board agreed the millage was necessary. The board went through the budget line items. Revenues were set historically. McIlwaine questioned the Supervisor salary for time spent on township business. Wester stated that the elected official salary can't be changed by law during their term. Wester stated he fields calls and meets residents on their concerns. Rudich asked that Wester bring those issues to the board meeting as part of his Supervisor's report. Wester asked that the board look at other areas to cut money, like health care. Rudich stated that the health plan was changed

and the township was saving money on the new plan because the employees were agreed to a higher deductible plan with greater risk. Rudich asked that Sheridan's new salary should be \$50,000. McIlwaine agreed. Wester stated the increase in salary would be 30% from the prior year. Phillips stated Sheridan was asking for \$46,000. The board agreed to \$46,000 with a 6 month review where his salary could go to \$50,000. Rudich stated there should be an employment agreement with Sheridan. Sheridan agreed and stated the new Zoning Administrator would have an agreement also.

Phillips asked about the Constable Expenditure. Rudich stated that was the expense and rental for the State Police. McIlwaine asked if the Clerk and Treasurer increase was sufficient, given the expense the employees were taking on for health care. The agreement was for a 2% increase in salary to cover the increase in health care expenses plus a cost of living increase. The Official's salary portion can't be changed, but the administrative portion of the salary would be increased as a one-time raise.

Wester asked about technology updates. Sheridan stated the township needed a new server and two new computers. Wester asked for a TV for presentations. McIlwaine asked for the hearing system.

Sheridan noted that the budget for the building included a sidewalk in the back, a sound system for the board room.

Sheridan noted that the township was putting \$27,000 back into fund balance. Phillips wanted to budget more than \$8,000 for the server update. Sheridan stated he would increase the building department and the technology department to expense 18,000 and that 9,000 would go to fund balance.

Wester asked about the timing on parks and cemetery cutting . Wester asked about timing on cemetery maintenance agreements. Sheridan was going to ask if services would keep their pricing in the future.

Rudich asked for an increase in Clerk training for election workers to 1,500.

Public Comments

Wester opened to public comment.

Adjourn Wester stated after having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15p.