



Dickinson Township
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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2013**

PRESENT: BOB WRIGHTSTONE, JONATHAN REISINGER, J.R. BARRETT - SUPERVISORS;
Laura Portillo, Manager; Larry Barrick, Assistant Manager/Zoning & Codes Enforcement Officer;
Denise Gembusia, Secretary/Treasurer.

VISITORS: Ross Morris, Jane Mitchell.

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Wrightstone called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS - There were no opening announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Barrett motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Chairman Wrightstone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - No minutes were presented for approval.

CONSENT AGENDA - No consent agenda was presented for approval.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Chairman Wrightstone had no report.

PUBLIC INPUT (non-agenda items)

There was no public input.

BUSINESS

1. **2014 Draft Budget Review.**

Manager Portillo reviewed the income projections from the General Fund proposed 2014 budget pointing out that she lowered the projected interest income for the checking account and certificates of deposits. The Supervisors had questions regarding the earned income tax estimates. Manager Portillo noted that the Township does not meet the legal criteria to raise the earned income tax. Newsletter printing costs have increased. Manager Portillo asked the Board if we can offer the newsletter only twice a year; spring and fall. The Board agreed. Total 2014 general fund revenues were estimated at \$1,096,568.00.

The Board agreed with the Manager's decision to include in the budget a new road crew member for 2014 that will be hired at no more than \$15.50 per hour. The road crew staff will receive

raises in 2014 varying from 14% to 3%, depending on changing job responsibilities. The Board also approved a 3% increase in salary for Manager Portillo.

While discussing expenditures, questions were raised about court cost estimates. Ultimately, the Board was content with the Manager's projections. Assistant Manager Barrick noted that the salt shed will need flashing and to be painted in 2014, which accounts for the increase in building maintenance costs. The fire and emergency services budget was reviewed. After a lengthy discussion on the fire tax, Chairman Wrightstone motioned to restore the fire tax for the 2014 budget to 0.168 mills. Vice Chairman Reisinger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 2 – 1. Supervisor Barrett cast the dissenting vote.

The Humane Society contract for 2014 will not be renewed. The State employs a dog warden, who is responsible for handling stray animals. The library donations have also been cut from the 2014 budget since everyone is already paying a library tax. The line items for Park & Recreation were questioned. The amount is higher due to the desire to purchase another trailered sign and the explosion of the fishing derby. There was a brief discussion over whether or not to put a composting toilet or holding tank at Stuart Park. No decisions were made.

Unemployment rate decreased from 7% to 4.25%. Healthcare costs increased 69%. This is because the Township renewal policy starts November 1 of each year, which means there is still medical underwriting on the policy. Starting January 1, 2014, no medical underwriting will be associated with healthcare policies thanks to the Affordable Healthcare Act. The Manager noted that she is still working with the insurance agent to find ways to lower the premiums once the Act is in effect.

Supervisor Barrett questioned why there would be a \$50K transfer to the capital reserve funds. Manager Portillo said that it could be removed since the savings accounts were being utilized for road projects in the upcoming years. She also noted that the \$8K originally budgeted for equipment rental could be paid from the savings since the rentals would be for road projects. After reviewing these changes, Vice Chairman Reisinger motioned to restore the fire tax back to 0.084 mills, rescinding the prior motion. Supervisor Barrett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Wrightstone then motioned to authorize the Township Manager to advertise the proposed 2014 budget with the fire tax to remain at 0.084 mills. Supervisor Barrett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board agreed to cancel the October 23rd and October 29th budget meetings since they were no longer needed.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Vice Chairman Reisinger talked about revisiting the speed limit on Burnt House Road.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Reisinger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. Supervisor Barrett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Gembusia
Secretary/Treasurer

