

April 1, 2010

A budget hearing meeting was called to order by Supervisor Lesandrini on March 24, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. There were 21 public attendees. Scott Kenney was present to discuss the 2010 – 2011 budget with the board. Kenney stated that he had met with Dalpra and Lesandrini in March and sketched together some numbers. Kenney also stated that he along with the board members had a budget workshop meeting held on March 10, 2010 , and at that time comparative information was sketched together, using actual information going back to 2008-2009 fiscal year. Questions were asked by Townships residents about the fire budget. Lesandrini commented that the Board doesn't know yet how much money the City will have to put towards the operation. The City is going to run a millage during the August Primary, stated Lesandrini. The number presented in the proposed budget is what the Board thinks the fire department will need from the Township in order to keep one full-time driver he stated. Residents questioned why the Board is going with one full-time driver instead of all volunteer?" After further discussion, a motion by Takala, supported by Kut to approve the 2010 – 2011 budget as presented. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

The State of the Township meeting was called to order on March 24, 2010 at 5:35 p.m.

Roll call was taken. All board members were present. Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

MEETING RESOLUTION:

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to approve the meeting resolution for the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

DEPOSITORY RESOLUTION AND INVESTMENT POLICY:

Motion by Kut, supported by Takala to approve the Investment and Depository Resolution designating the following financial institution as depositories of the Township's funds:

Wells Fargo Bank, Crystal Falls, Michigan; CoVantage Credit Union, Crystal Falls, Michigan; First National Bank, Crystal Falls, Michigan; Edward Jones Investment, Crystal Falls, Michigan. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: 2009-2010

Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to amend the current budget to meet this year end obligation expenditures. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP:

FINANCE: Scott Kenney

Kenney stated that the proposed general fund revenues are \$574,470.00 and the expenses are \$574,206.00 with the projected fund balance at \$650,665.00. Kenney stated by category, the fire budget has a projected fund balance of \$238,337.00, of which \$102,300.00 is earmarked for the fire department. The improvement fund, stated Kenney has a \$58,788.00 fund balance, the sewer fund has a \$20,507.00 in retained earnings and the water fund has \$209,045.00 in retained earnings. The overall financial health of the Township budget, Kenney stated is very solid.

WATER, SEWER, PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS: Jeff Bal, Robb Anderson of AECOM

Bal and Anderson outlined and provided a slide show, the work done on the sewer, water, master plan, GIS, wellhead protection, industrial park and Gibson lake park projects.

PLANNING , ZONING AND GIS: Jim Waisanen – Township Assessor

Township Jim Waisanen commented that this past year was the first time the new zoning ordinance was in effect, so the Township can now issue zoning violation tickets, which Waisanen stated several were issued. 32 permits were issued last year, commented Waisanen and four new homes were built. The Zoning Board is in the process of completing the master plan, stated Waisanen and then a public hearing will be set. Waisanen noted another ongoing project that he is working on is the GIS, or geographic information mapping of every parcel in the Township. Waisanen stated that he can give residents a free aerial map of their property which can be used in planning. Waisanen presented the board and audience with slides of the mapping.

TOWNSHIP ROADS: Cully Sholander ICRC

Cully Sholander, chairman of the Iron County Road Commission, gave a brief synopsis of the road plans. Sholander noted when he first started in his position, the Road Commission was in poor financial condition. Now, commented

Sholander, the Road Commission has a three month fund balance, thanks to the residents voting on a road millage. Sholander stated that the only primary road projects for the summer are the Bates/Amasa Road and West Sunset Lake Road. Sholander also noted that the Road Commission Board will hold its annual tasks force meeting to determine which local roads to work on.

Lesandrini stated that he would be using a different formula for chlorinating. Instead of the 38%, Lesandrini stated, which gave us about 26 miles of road, this year he would be using 29% , saving the Township money.

ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT: Julie Melchiori EDC and MSU

Julie Melchiori, county economic developer presented the Board and public with a brief slide presentation. Melchiori stated that Michigan now has the highest unemployment rate rising poverty, the greatest population loss and highest rate of home foreclosures. Melchiori stated that manufacturing jobs are declining, and the jobs in demand are public services and technology. Iron County, Melchiori stated, needs to be prepared for these jobs by upgrading infrastructure and creating vibrant downtowns.

2010 CENSUS AND TAXIATION: Mary Dalpra – Township Treasurer

Dalpra stated that revenue sharing is based on population, so it is important that every person is counted. Due to the financial position of the state, Dalpra stated, sales tax revenue is at an all-time low, and the Census Bureau is anticipating Iron County will have a decline in population, which means less money will be coming in over the next ten year. Dalpra noted that everyone should take the time to fill out and return their Census questionnaires.

SANITATION AND RECLYCLING: Tom Lesandrini – Township Supervisor

Lesandrini stated that the sanitation fund has a good fund balance, so the Township won't be increasing rates. Recycling continues to be on the first Wednesday of every month, and is manned from 7:00 – 3:00. The Spring and Fall clean-up weekends will continue and will be announced in the paper and also at our board meeting. Lesandrini commented that the organic waste site has been used frequently by residents for disposal of branches and leaves. Hazardous wasted materials, stated Lesandrini, can be brought to Marquette.

ELECTIONS: Joanne Seppala – Township Clerk

Seppala noted that there will be three elections this year. School elections will be held on May 4th. The last day to register is April 5th. There will be 3 school board members running along with the library mileage proposals. Absentee ballots will be sent out only upon request. Absentee ballots applications are available in the Township office. May 11th is the filling deadline for the Primary election on August 3rd. The governor is running as well as all the County Commissioners and other offices. The General election will be held on November 2nd. If anyone is interested in working as an election inspector or Chairperson there will be an election inspector certification training session schedule sometime in July, prior to the August Primary. Seppala stated that there are also applications available in the office for the inspectors or Chairperson's positions.

LIBRARY – Bev Camp

Bev Camp reported that yesterday the Library had 158 visitors. The last ten years, Camp stated the residents had been paying 1.4 mills, which part of this was for the building bond. Now, Camp stated the Library is now asking one mill for five years, because the building has been paid off, which will be a reduction of .4 mills for the next five years. There are many programs offered at the library, Camp stated. 8 computers, which are hooked to the internet, 2 computers which are available for the children, meeting room, which is available upon request. Once a month, Camp noted, on Friday the Library is closed early and they provide game night for children 9 years and older. Free movies are provided every other Tuesday, which you can bring you own popcorn to, stated Camp. The hours at the library are from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursdays; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays; and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.on Saturday.

OVERVIEW: Tom Lesandrini

Lesandrini stated the Township has challenges ahead of it, but there are a lot of good things going on. We have your best interests in mind. Don't be afraid to come in and talk to us, stated Lesandrini.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.