

August 16, 2010

A workshop meeting regarding the Primary election result was held on Monday, August 9, 2010 at 4:15 p.m. Discussion was made by the board regarding the defeated millage issues of the Operating and Fire. A suggestion was made to possibly re-run the operating millage in the General election in November. Takala noted that the public should be aware of the possible cuts that would affect the township if the operating millage does not pass. Lesandrini stated that he has a list, which he will discuss with the board and public during the Tuesday regular board meeting. He suggested to the board to review, comment and if they had any ideas to add to the list. Lesandrini stated that the townships budget is in place until March 31, 2011. There is approximately \$400,000.00 worth of cuts that needs to take place, stated Lesandrini. Kut stated that she thought that the board needs to also look at the health insurance costs. Takala suggested also cutting on the road work. We stick \$200,000.00 a year into the roads stated Takala and maybe we could cut \$50,000.00 off of that and/or leave that up to the people.

Regarding the fire millage, Takala stated that he had heard comments from residents that they thought it would be wise if the township was going for 1 mill for the fire department instead of 2 mills. They did not have a problem with 1 mill for fire protection, stated Takala, but they had a problem with the new fire hall not be optional, especially with the grant money being questionable. There were letters mailed out to the public, Takala stated, with a lot of misinformation about fire protection, fire cost and how many volunteers it would take to put out a fire. With that being said, Takala commented, he would like to do some investigating into some of the questions that were asked in the letters. Kut added that the board needs to seriously address the retirement, otherwise going forward we will end up paying this out of our own money. In February, the township gave the Fire Authority \$54,000.00, which was suppose to cover miscellaneous expense from March through June and now we are getting invoices going back to December 2009. We also gave them \$ 5,000.00 for the actuary, stated Kut. Lesandrini stated that we still will have money coming in from Mastodon and Mansfield from last year. Kut also stated that we still have the 2 fulltime employees on and we did say the residents would be making the decision one way or another, and here we sit. Lesandrini stated that we have enough money in the budget until March 31, 2011, but if someone wants to make a motion tomorrow night, they can make the motion with support, and the drivers will be laid off. The motion can also be made on the retirees, stated Lesandrini. Lesandrini stated that we have money in our budget through March 31, but we have to come up with a plan to try and educate not scare the residents on what all this means by not having fire protection and not having money to run our general fund. Lesandrini stated that his recommendation was to run the millage in November whether it's one general fund, have one vote on 4 mills, or go to 3 mills or 1.5 for fire. They do not have to be separated, stated Lesandrini, it can all be in the general fund. I want you to think and brainstorm amongst yourself and come to the meeting tomorrow night with some ideas. Motion by Seppala, supported by Takala to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk