

Lee Township
Annual Budget Meeting
March 27, 2010

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 10:00 am at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

Members Present: Trustee Ferguson, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Miller and Clerk King.
Absent: Trustee Black.

Citizens Comments:

A Citizen presented a questions to the board regarding what was left in the "Public Improvement" line item as well as how will the board compensate for the revenue decrease. She also commented on the Transfer Station coupons. She felt that we have down this long enough and it was time to just use them when handling blight complaints?

A citizen presented the question to the board regarding if the First Responders are paid for assisting the Fire Department when they work on both departments?, and how many hours does the average call take?

Treasurer Lowery had two suggested adjustments to the proposed budget. The proposed changes were on the General Funds, account 101.253.970 (Capital Outlay-Treasurer) increase to \$2000.00 in place of the proposed \$800.00. Treasurer Lowery stated that the folding machine lease payments were taken from this account. There also was a change in 101.257.801.1 (Fee Land Split Application-Assessor). The proposed amount was listed as \$2500.00 and should be decreased to \$1000.00.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to approve the proposed budget for the Fire Department and First Responders as presented and the General Fund proposed budget with changes. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to adopt the General Appropriation Act as presented with changes. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carries.

A Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to close the budget meeting. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

Minutes Submitted by:
Jacquelyn A. King, Clerk

Lee Township
Annual Meeting of the Electors
March 27, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the Electors was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by the Lee Township Board located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, MI. The electors chose to have Sally Lacy to chair the meeting.

Sally Lacy requested that to start the meeting, it would be a good time for Supervisor Miller to give a report of the State of the Township and what has been accomplished over the past year. Supervisor Miller listed these projects that were accomplished in 2008/2009.

- The replacement of the Lower Scott Lake Dam (structure).
- The flooding on 109th Avenue with the help of the Bodkes, they were able to alleviate the flooding by having much of the water pumped into the County Drain.
- The proposed new Fire Station/ Township Hall. The paperwork has been sent in to the USDA to received a grant/loan to help fund the new project. Supervisor Miller stated that he had been working with Miller/Canfield and Schuitmaker, Cooper as well as Midwest Engineer to get the plans drawn up. The loan/grant was in the amount of \$650,000 with a \$50,000 grant. The payment plan would be a fixed loan at 4.00% over 30 years. The loan can be paid off early with no penalty. Supervisor Miller also statement that they were looking at what the cost of the new building if it was a pole style instead of a frame building
- The Burned out building on 109th has been clean up.
- In the process of 102nd culvert to be repair and paid by a grant that would cover \$200,000 of the repair.

Les Rawson – Wanted clarification on the reduction in revenue. It has been anticipated on the proposed budget that there will be a reduction of more than 100,000.00

Lisa Galdikas – Commented on the new fire station. She stated that it seemed that the Supervisor was not informing the board as well as the residents of the decisions that were being made. She wondered when a committee would be formed, so that the residents would be able to be part of this project.

Supervisor Miller stated that the part of this process required working with USDA and the attorneys, and that a committed could be formed in the future. He anticipated that it could be set up in the next few months.

Randy Daveron stated that he read in the paper that the loan would be for 650,000.00 and stated that he understood, by his previous conversation with the Supervisor that this would be all in grants.

Donna Christenson requested clarification on the difference between the Grant and Loans. True grants do not have a cost involved with them and others are part grant and part loan.

Supervisor Miller stated that the USDA was giving the township a loan with a grant attached to it. If less money was borrowed the grant would decrease as well. Currently the grant portion of this project was for \$50,000.00

Supervisor Miller also stated that the grant for the 102nd will cost the township it's portion of \$24,000.00 and receive 200,000.00 grant. The Grant is through the State of Michigan.

Donna Christensen- Commented on the large amount in the “Professional Services” line item. She asked what expenses did this total include. Clerk King stated that the expenses were for the engineering fees for the new building, attorney fees for the new building, the township’s annual audit and a lawsuit against the township.

Lisa Galdikas – Commented on the blight situation. She agreed with D. Christensen regarding the enforcement of blight and the revenue it can generate. She also felt that it was important for the public to be updated on the status of the properties.

Lenny Cericola–Commented on the location of the designs for the new building. Supervisor Miller stated that the Building Inspector currently had the print.

Les Rawson – Commented on cost that can be reduced. He felt that we should go to only one officer and perhaps only have dust control on a request basis only, instead of scheduled applications. He expressed his concern that he has had two break in’s and feels that property protection should be what our officers are doing.

Lisa Galdikas- Commented on the law enforcement might need to be up to the public. She felt that public input was very important and asked Supervisor Miller if she understood him in that he felt that law enforcement is not as important and should be reduced? Supervisor Miller stated that the cost was too high.

Donna Christensen- Commented on having the law enforcement spend more time on the blight and noise ordinance which would also help generate more income. She also felt that everyone needs to consider that the Sheriff is only mandated to operate the jail and road patrol may be reduced with falling revenues.

Virginia Brock –Wondered if the township was paying extra to have other officer than our township officers at meetings. She mention that there have been meetings where there have been more than our township officers.

Donna Christensen – Wondered if insurance money had been spent on repairing/reorganizing the library. Clerk King stated that there was mostly cleanup and reorganization and no insurance claim was necessary.

Lisa Galdikas – Made a suggestion that there needs to be a discussion with the Sheriff’s department to on how we would like the officers to spend there time.

Treasurer Lowery – Recommended that the board call a meeting with the Sheriff’s Department .
Supervisor Miller – Stated that he would call and set up the meeting.

Donna Christensen – Commented that the Supervisor should be overseeing what is done. Supervisor Miller stated that he has requested schedules and reports, but has not been successful in getting them.

Sally Lacy – Stated that in per opinion, this was the wrong time for the Supervisor and Trustee’s to request a raise. With revenues decreasing and the economy struggling, she was not in favor of raising. She felt that the most work intensive jobs were the Treasurer and Clerk. The Supervisor was the contact

person for the residents and the trustees responsibilities were to attend the meetings and any additional duties that were assigned by the Supervisor.

Les Rawson- Did not agree with Lacy. He felt that these jobs were full time and there pay was part time. He stated that he currently supports the raises.

Randy Daveron- Feels that the people should decide if the board members should receive raises.

Fred Rawson- Supports increases for the raises because he feels they a doing a fine job.

Sandy Anderson – Agreed that the board is doing a fine job, but doesn't feel this is the right time for raises.

Donna Christensen- Feels that wages should be frozen and this is not the right time for raises. She also felt that the new members should attend all trainings have a better understanding of the jobs.

Eleanor DeWeerd- Spoke on the raises that had currently been given in the First Responders and Fire Department.

Donna – Didn't feel that the positions could be compared with the Board members.

Lenny Cericola- Stated that while he was a trustee, he was responsible for keeping track of the township deputies. Maybe weekly reports should be considered.

Treasurer Lowery called a Point of order and reminded the electors that the Salary Increase Resolution must be voted on.

A motion was made by Christensen and seconded by Cericola to voted on Supervisor's request for a raise from \$15,000.00 to \$17,000.00. A vote of hands was taken. Yes – 8 and 12 opposed. The motion carried to not approve a raise for the Township Supervisor.

A motion was made by Christensen and seconded by Davoren to vote on the wage raise for the Trustees from \$2400.00 annually to \$3000.00. A vote of hands was taken . Yes – 4 and opposed 12.

Sally Lacy call the meeting to a close.

A motion was made by Christensen and seconded by Cericola to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 am. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:
Jacquelyn A. King, Clerk