

BEARINGER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
17034 Town Hall Highway  
Budget Hearing, Monday, March 21, 2011, 7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. All board members were present.

The Preliminary Budget was reviewed. Supervisor Slawinski suggested that we go line item by line item and hold public comments until the complete budget was reviewed.

Due to the fact that the board hired Grants Maintenance to clean the town hall and mow the town hall and cemetery lawns the line item 101-265-801.000, Professional & Contractual Services, needed to be increased from \$1400 to \$1800. Line item 101-446-999.000, Transfer (Out) for \$1100, which used to be a Road CD, was eliminated. This makes the change in equity fund \$16,255 and the budget is \$101,395.

The meeting was open for public comments.

John Malsky thinks that the board salaries are too high and that mileage should be lowered. He questioned why the board used to meet every month and now they meet every other month so in essence they got a pay raise. Clerk Shutes explained to him that when the current board took over we met every other month. In order to get acclimated to the job the new board voted to meet every month. After over two years the board went back to every other month. The current pay for mileage is .45 cents while other government entities receive .55 cents so Bearinger Township board members receive .10 cents less than the going rate.

Irv Dedow questioned why, since the Supervisor is new, the category, Supervisor Seminars and Workshops, were decreased. Supervisor Slawinski attended a New Supervisor Seminar so he does not need to go to another one. Board of Review has its own category. Slawinski attended Board of Review Training and that cost was paid through the Board of Review category.

Karen Silver stated that the Supervisor is only responsible for doing the minutes at the Board of Review. A Chairman is appointed and the Chairman along with the other Board of Review members are the ones who make

Board of Review decisions, not the Supervisor.

Irene Seelye wanted to know how much was budgeted for the Large Item Pick-Up. This is paid through Community Promotions under Governing Body which has \$1500 budgeted. This will be more than enough to cover the cost of the Large Item Pick-UP.

Irv Dedow wanted to know who maintains Beam Highway. Beam Highway is a county road so the county maintains Beam Highway. If a culvert blows out it will be up to the county to repair or replace the culvert.

Irene Seelye wanted clarification as to where the money that was left over in the Fire Department checking account was spent. Lappan Insurance was paid, the Fire Fighters Association was paid and a variety of miscellaneous bills were paid. The final amount in the checking account will be presented at the Fire Board meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Fire Board will decide how the left over money will be divided either 50/50 or by Taxable Value. At that time the final amount Bearer Township needs to contribute to the 2011-2012 Fire Department budget will be determined.

Irv Dedow thinks the Fire Department should have purchased an ROV because it is important to have one for safety reasons. Chief Yaklin is the one who made the final decision as to what items would be included in the final Fire Department budget.

Gale Phelps does not agree with Deputy Merchant receiving a \$1,000 salary. This is a 400% increase over last year's salary of \$200. Treasurer Phelps wants a current roster and inventory before we give Bearer Township's share of the allocated money to the Fire Department.

Ted Slawinski stated that the Fire Department needs to clean up the MIOSHA abatements and fix all equipment. Supervisor Slawinski stated that the Fire Department is not going to shut down.

John Malsky commented that MIOSHA will work with the department. They will keep coming back to make sure every thing is up to specifications.

Doris Parker says there are hazardous waste products that need to be cleaned up at the Hammond Bay Biological Station which is located in Ocqueoc Township.

Karen Silver wants the board to budget \$50 for the Watershed Council. There are seven (7) lakes that need help. The water in Bearinger Township is very important.

Pat Augustine has requested that Huron Pines present the board with a summary of how money contributed to them helps Bearinger Township.

Gale Phelps stated that we could use money out of Community Promotions if we vote to contribute money to the Watershed Council.

John Malsky commented that the calendar on Bearinger's web site did not reflect our Budget Hearing on March 21. Trustee Augustine is in charge of the web site and she has had a personal situation that needed her attention. The budget hearing announcement was in two newspapers for three weeks and posted at the town hall.

Irene Seeyle reminded the board that we need a Resolution, not just a motion, to pass the budget. A Resolution will be provided at the next board meeting to be voted on.

Clerk Shutes made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Supervisor Slawinski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Supervisor Slawinski: yes Clerk Shutes: yes Treasurer Phelps: yes  
Trustee Augustine: yes Trustee Dowker: yes. All in favor so the motion carried.

Trustee Augustine made a motion to adjourn at 8:22. Trustee Dowker seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on April 11, 2011 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Shutes, Bearinger Township Clerk