

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

APPROVED DRAFT MINUTES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WITH CORRECTIONS 4-0 , (AMOS ABSTAINED FROM VOTE).

MARCH 22, 2014 BUDGET HEARING
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Martel, Schultz, Goossen and Windiate

Absent: Amos

Audience: 10

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP BUDGETS FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TO ACT ON THE BUDGETS AND OTHER MATTERS.

1. The meeting convened at 9:09 AM followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. Public Hearing for FY 2014-15 Township Budgets:
 - A. General Fund Budget: Taxable Value for 2014 is \$231,117,100, up from \$226,591,616 in 2013. The possibility of making an additional mortgage payment, principal only was discussed. Schultz would like to see a payment of \$75,000 from General Fund 101. Comments were made on the BS&A software purchased two years ago and how helpful it has been in creating the budgets. The word "Constable" is in the budget, but needs to be changed to read "Ordinance Enforcement Officer" or OEO. Suggested the Board look into pre-buying propane for the coming year.
 - B. Fire Special Assessment District Fund Budget and millage levy for 2014-2015: Mention of Fire Chief, Ryan Bigelow, as well as two new Lieutenants, Cody Randall and Allen Davidson. Davidson is also the department Secretary; discussion of the new pick-up truck purchased last year, as well as new rescue boat; Bigelow commented on the 25 year old tanker and 20 year old pumper. He would like to start putting budgeted money toward new purchases in the future.
 - C. EMS Special Assessment District Fund Budget and millage levy for FY 2014-15: There is a recommended increase in wages for EMS department, with Director at \$40,500, EMT's \$9.75/hr, MFR's \$8.60/hr, and cross-trained staying at \$12/hr; Persons mentioned the need to re-chassis the 1998 ambulance soon.
 - D. Road Budget FY 2014-15: Plans remain to resurface Birchview this year; the annual flooding on Coleman road needs to be addressed.
 - E. Liquor Enforcement Fund for FY 2014-15: The wages in this fund are used for township inspections of facilities that sell liquor and are done by a county sheriff deputy. Asked if we can use the interest from this fund, the reply was there is no interest on this fund. The Cemetery Fund was presented, ~~but this is not a budgeted Fund.~~
Interest from this fund can be used.
3. The **Motion** by Goossen to close the Budget Hearing at 10:00 AM was seconded and passed 4-0.
4. Meeting was recessed until after the Annual Meeting of Electors.
5. Meeting reconvened at 10:57 ~~11:57~~ AM.
6. Public Comment: A question about why Tom Persons' name was on township email. The township email communications come from Tom's computer, therefore has his name. He will work on getting the township name as heading instead.
7. Items for Discussion/Action:
 - A. General Fund Budget for 2014-15: The **Motion** by Goossen to approve the General Fund Budget as presented, including cost centers within and to levy 1 mil toward taxable value was seconded and passed 4-0.
 - B. Fire Budget 2014-15: The **Motion** by Schultz to approve the proposed the 2014-15 Fire Budget, as presented with a levy of .8 mils against taxable value was seconded and passed 4-0.

- C. EMS Budget 2014-15: The **Motion** by Windiate to approve the EMS 2014-15 Budget as presented and levy 1.45 mils against taxable value was seconded and passed ~~3-1 with Schultz voting no. 4-0.~~
 - D. Road Fund Budget 2014-15: The **Motion** by Martel to approve the 2014-15 Road Fund Budget as prepared with a levy of .25 mil against taxable value was seconded and passed 4-0.
 - E. Liquor Enforcement Fund: The **Motion** by Schultz to approve the proposed 2014-15 Liquor Fund Budget as presented was seconded and passed 4-0.
 - F. Salary Pay Schedule: The **Motion** by Goossen to approve the 2014-2015 Pay Schedule as prepared, including page 2, was seconded and passed 4-0.
8. Board Commentary: 1. In regard to the EMS department, all agreed we should continue to gather information from vendors as well as looking at our costs to go Advanced Life Support (ALS). This should include public meetings with the former EMS committee, as it is made up of many knowledgeable people. 2. Schultz caution against the use of Township letterhead unless what is being written represents the entire Township Board.
9. Citizen Commentary: 1. Becky Norris commented that the former EMS committee no longer exists, but the people that served would probably be happy to participate. That committee had conducted a citizen survey. It might be a good time for a new survey of the electors. 2. In October 2013, Don Leys had reported 3 lights burned out in the parking lot. They're still out. Also, what would be involved in putting the EMS issue as a referendum to allow citizen vote to decide. 3. Jim Walworth thought it might be a good time to look at the price charged for cemetery lots.
10. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.

These Minutes are respectfully submitted and are subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy S. Windiate
Township Clerk