

**Charter Township of Huron
Special Budget Workshop
January 11, 2010**

The special Budget Workshop meeting of the Charter Township of Huron Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Doom at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Municipal Offices, 22950 Huron River Drive. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Mendrysa.

Roll Call: Bowers, Glaab, Lilly, Mendrysa, Pappas, Spangler, Doom – Present

#0111 – Motion by Glaab

Supported by Spangler

1. To approve the agenda for the special budget workshop meeting of January 11, 2010 as presented.
Motion Carried.

#0111 - Brief Public Comment – Sandra Somers, Waltz Road resident, concerns with the Historical Commission Budget.

- 2.

#0111 - 2010 Budget Study – Supervisor Doom explained to the audience the purpose of tonight’s meeting. Supervisor Doom informed the audience of several issues regarding the budget explaining how the different departments within the Township are funded. Supervisor Doom stressed that decisions on budget cuts will have to be made soon. Everyday we delay will cost the Township. According to the Township’s Auditor’s the Township will be bankrupt in 4 years if we continue at the current pace. Supervisor Doom opened up the discussion to other Board members.

Trustee Glaab feels the Township Board needs to determine what services and positions are the most necessary and should be continued. Extra curricular programs must be looked at especially Recreation and Senior activities. Department Heads will be relied on to submit cost reductions for their own departments. Decisions made by this Board will affect the Township for years to come.

Trustee Pappas feels we did Fire Department layoffs too soon. Trustee Pappas feels we were in violation for having laid off firefighter too soon. Trustee Pappas commented that Board members have spent a lot of time working on this budget.

Trustee Lilly offered several scenarios. 1.) Have the Supervisor investigate the option of offering buyouts to individuals who may be considering retirement. 2) 10% wage cut for all employees. 3.) 2 furlough days per month. 4.) Contract out snow removal, grass cutting, combining Animal Control with the City of Romulus. 5.) Rearrange Assessing Department. 6.) Re-evaluate Health Care Insurance. 7.) Review tax abatements that have been given.

The possibility of furlough days was discussed.

- #0111 - Clerk Bowers – Reminded Board members that seniority must be followed if layoffs are done. This must be considered when reorganizing departments.
3. Clerk Bowers also explained to the Board upcoming changes in Blue Cross/Blue Shield laws that will affect the Township’s health care plans. Trustee Mendrysa feels that all departments should be considered when determining layoffs.

Treasurer Spangler stated that she believes elected officials should also take pay cuts consistent with any that may have to be taken by employees. She also feels that the majority of employees seem to favor furlough days as opposed to pay cuts or layoffs. Treasurer Spangler said there is a possibility of up to \$256,000.00 in savings with health care reform.

It was the general consensus of the Board that the Supervisor should meet with the employees to get their feelings on what type of cuts they would prefer.

Supervisor Doom stated that she would meet with the employees on Wednesday morning to get their feelings on this.

#0111 - Public Participation –

4. a) Tim Sturgill, Elizabeth Lane resident asked if the payment of breakage fees from Pinnacle Racetrack are current. Mr. Sturgill feels that the Township should be open 5 days a week if furlough days are used. Questions on Township credit card spending and credit card policies.
- b) Faye Bird, King Road resident, stated that the combination of Dog Pounds is being done in many other communities. Companies must be held accountable for the agreements that are made when tax abatements are issued. When looking at recreation keep in mind that schools are also being faced with budget cuts and that their facilities may not be available for use for recreation programs.
- c) Cathy Laurain, Willow Road resident and Township employee. Comments on the way the General Fund covers Police & Fire when they need it. All departments can help each other out throughout the budget cuts. All overtime should be eliminated.
- d) Pam Carpenter, Senior Director, stated that she is willing to do whatever it takes to keep the program going.
- e) Mary Collins, Waltz Road resident, commented on how productive tonight’s meeting has been. Mrs. Collins stated that in order to get a working budget the Board must be meeting more regularly. Elected Officials should also take whatever cuts employees are taking.

#0111 - Motion by Glaab Supported by Spangler
5. To adjourn the January 11, 2010 Budget Meeting of the Charter Township of
Huron Board of Trustees at 9:09 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted & Prepared by:

Dawnette K. Bowers, CMC, Clerk
Charter Township of Huron

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