

**Charter Township of Huron
Budget Workshop
June 3, 2010**

The June 3, 2010 Budget Workshop was called to order by Supervisor Doom at 3:03 p.m. at the Township Hall. 22950 Huron River Dr., New Boston. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clerk Bowers.

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

#0603 - Motion by Mendrysa

Supported by Spangler

1. To approve the agenda for the Special Budget Workshop of June 3, 2010 as presented.

Motion Carried.

#0603 - Brief Public Comments – None at this time.

2.

#0603 - Supervisor Doom stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss where the Township stands with its 2010 budget after cuts have been made. Supervisor Doom stated the budget originally indicated the Township could be \$250,000 short. With the implementation of many cost saving measures it appears the budget is \$259,000 in the black. State Revenue Sharing has been cut, positions in the Township have been cut – Senior Director, Recreation Director, two furlough days per month for general office. Supervisor Doom feels the General Fund is where it should be with the cuts that have been made. Glenn Suemnick has put together budget reports for the Board members with the information he has available to him. There have been medical leaves within the General Office Staff and three people have retired within the General Office and Water Department. People are being cross trained to do the positions in other departments. The Clerk from Planning & Zoning is being trained to assist in the Water Department, the Planning & Zoning Clerk will also be taking over for the Building Department Clerk while she is on a medical leave. There is one Clerk in the Assessing Department and the Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer's Office may be shifted to assessing. There are no plans for any layoffs at this time. Layoffs would cripple the Township. Supervisor Doom will be recommending the continuation of furlough days through the end of the year. Supervisor Doom also reported on tax tribunal cases and the number of large tribunal cases that are being filed.

Clerk Bowers stated the Clerk's Office cannot take anymore cuts in staff. The Administrative Assistant has retired and the Financial Administrative Assistant is on a medical leave. Mr. Suemnick will be taking over the administration of the phone system and the computer systems. Joan Rattray will assist with some election duties. Clerk Bowers advised the Board she will be coming back with a recommendation to bring Debbie Bowman back part time as Deputy Clerk.

Treasurer Spangler stated the Township is lucky to have so many employees cross trained. Joan Rattray, Deputy Treasurer will assume some of Terri Pinter's duties, Ramona Taylor will be helping with assessing, Ruth Wagner will be assisting Helen Harrison during water billing times. Treasurer Spangler does not foresee any layoffs this year as long as the Township can maintain their costs. The Township is here to provide essential services to the residents. Supervisor Doom stated the taxable values are going down 11% this year and it is still unclear at this time as to how much revenue sharing the Township will be receiving.

Trustee Glaab stated the Township should be focusing on future contracts and must budget with that in mind when negotiating contracts that will be in effect for the next three to five years. The union contracts will impact how the Township will deal with reduced Revenue Sharing. Trustee Glaab stated that the Employee Job Surveys should be done annually.

Supervisor Doom advised the Board Plante & Moran will be assisting in the Accounting Department with the Budget and the five year forecast. Supervisor Doom advised the Board they need to start on the 2011 budget now and they need expert help to prepare the next budget. Supervisor Doom stated that Mr. Suemnick is having a difficult time locating certain files to do the next budget. Trustee Lilly thanked Mr. Suemnick for the Budget work and stated the report provided more information than was provided before. Trustee Lilly reviewed all the savings that have already been implemented and how they have affected the budget.

Supervisor Doom added that all the savings implemented have put the Township in a more comfortable position for next year's budget.

Trustee Lilly stated that next year will be the worst year for the budget and he is concerned with future liabilities – sick, vacation and retiree health care.

Trustee Mendrysa asked about the payments for the State Revenue sharing.

Supervisor Doom advised that the final payment for 2010 will come to the Township in March of 2011. Trustee Mendrysa asked that the Negotiating Team negotiate to move employees to any department as needed.

Clerk Bowers stated she would like to see the level of positions in the General Contract changed to pay clerks according to their ability not seniority.

Trustee Mendrysa also stated the Township should have work instructions for each position.

Supervisor Doom stated Brian Camiller, Plante Moran, feels the Township is in good shape, financially, right now. Supervisor Doom stated she is pleased and relieved with the Township's financial position. The Township will not know exactly how they have done until the next audit. Supervisor Doom would like the entire Board to work on the 2011 budget.

Trustee Glaab asked if a closed session will be called to discuss contract negotiations. Supervisor Doom stated that health insurance is the biggest issue with all the contracts. Trustee Glaab asked that the Board be brought up to speed on the negotiations before the contracts get too far along.

Supervisor Doom stated that she is hampered by the cost of special meetings. She does not want to call a special meeting at a cost of \$100.00 per Trustee. It

was suggested that special meetings be held a 6:00 p.m. prior to a Board meeting. Trustee Glaab stated this does not have to be a formal meeting as long as all members are updated.

Clerk Bowers advised the Board that the Negotiating Team has meet with all unions except Fire. The unions have been given three options for health insurance. A meeting is being set with the Insurance Carrier to meet with the employees on a one to one basis to address their questions and concerns. Clerk Bowers reminded the Board that Police and Fire can go to 312 arbitration which can be a lengthy process, General Office and DPW can only go to fact finding. Trustee Lilly asked if the Township can settle agreements with each union separately or do they all have to settle at once? Clerk Bowers stated that they are settled individually.

Trustee Mendrysa stated that the Board must communicate. Board meetings can start at 6:00 p.m. and get the information needed to waive the \$100 per meeting fee for Trustees.

Trustee Pappas question the Deputy Clerk working 26 hours a week or more if brought back.

Clerk Bowers stated the Deputy Clerk is not a union position and would not receive any benefits. This position would be a contract position.

Ed Gillman, Interim Fire Chief and Nate Cornwall, Huron Twp. Firefighter addressed the Board on the Fire Department Budget. Chief Gillman stated he is going to meet with the Accounting Department to find out what bills will be coming due yet this year.

Firefighter Cornwall gave the Board an overview of the Fire Department Budget. The Fire Department relies strictly on millages and there have been significant cuts in the tax base and revenues from EMS billing runs. The Fire Department has one full time person on layoff at this time. The paid-on call have approximately 14 active firefighters total and 8 full time firefighters with one on layoff. There may be changes in the level of service. There have been changes in how paid-on call respond and there will be more changes. These changes are being made in an effort to reduce costs. Future funding of the Department depends on the millage renewal and the millage increase which will be on the August 3, 2010 ballot. These millages will allow the department to remain an Advanced Life Support agency with 24/7 coverage. The renewal millage will allow the department to keep six full time firefighters.

Trustee Glaab asked about equipment replacement. FF Cornwall stated the renewal millage would only allow for 24hr/7 days a week ALS coverage.

FF Cornwall stated he would like to sit down with the Accounting Department and get a full picture of the budget at the six month point.

Greg Hinzmann, Police Chief stated that with the retirements within the Department and one officer leaving to go to another department his budget is doing well. The two Sergeants work the night shifts. The township has been experiencing an increase in crime rates due to the economy. Overtime has increased also because officers on the night shifts must go to court during the

day. Settling the contracts will be the biggest issue with the Police Budget. The LDFA has reduced the rental on the police station. Equipment purchases have been paid for through drug forfeiture funds and grants.

#0603 - Public Participation:

4. a) Faye Bird, King Road resident – What percent of the budget is wages?
Questions regarding the budget.
- b) Mary Collins, Waltz Road resident – Mrs. Collins stated she would have liked to have seen this Budget Workshop broadcast. She felt the public would have benefited from this meeting.
- c) Joan Rattray, GEO Union Stewart and Deputy Treasurer – Mrs. Rattray advised the Board the Township General Office employees are the lowest paid of five surrounding communities.

- #0609 - Motion by Spangler Supported by Mendrysa
5. To adjourn the Budget Workshop meeting of the Charter Township of Huron Board of Trustees at 5:06 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by,

Dawnette K. Bowers, CMC Clerk
Charter Township of Huron

Debbie Bowman, CMC Dep. Clerk

Publish: HVNH
June 16, 2010