

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Special Meeting/Budget Hearing
November 26, 2018**

Call to Order: 4:30 pm Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Supervisor Steve Boyd, Clerk Mary Segalin, Treasurer Maria Graser

Trustees: Kevin Lyons, Marlene Saari, Bev Michaels, Bernie Brunello

Absent: None

Also Present: James Simmons Jr., Mary Kasten, Richard Kasten, Joe Rohde, Rudy Grbavicich, Adam Graser, Stan Carr, Ronald Kremposki, Sandy Lahtinen, Brenda Aili-Angus, LeRoy Johnson, Mark McDonald, Peggy Krohn and Sharon Hallberg.

Open Public Hearing: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to open the public hearing. Motion carried.

Public Comment on Proposed 2019 Budgets: Graser clarified on the notice for this hearing-Increase on Property Taxes that was in the Daily Globe-It is just for the millage that was voted on, not an increase.

A citizen had stated that the proposed 3% increase in salary is more than fair for the elected officials and maybe a little low considering all of the funds being mismanaged in the past and having to investigate all funds and correct them. He supported having a Deputy Treasurer to allow the Treasurer to have help and the ability to take vacation is more than fair. Also, the citizen commended Trustee Lyons for all of his work he has put in to this Township. He also wondered where the citizens were that are complaining of how the money is being spent now, when they should have been asking these questions when the former Treasurer was here.

Another citizen stated that all the bond money, if collected, will be going for the elected officials requested wage increase. She is afraid that the Township will never see the bond monies comes through, Boyd stated he talked with our insurance agent at Hannula Insurance and they said the \$125,000 bond money for the Townships Bond should be here by years end. She also suggested eliminating the deputies to save money. She questioned what the fund balance in General Fund was at this time. By having Deputies working in the office enables the township officials to not work at least 32 hrs per week. We need to pay for what we owe in taxes to the other municipalities.

Boyd offered that we are waiting for the Township Auditors to finalize the previous tax years audit so we will know the final numbers.

Another citizen reminded the Board that they work for the citizens of the Township. He is aghast of the 2019 proposed budget. In the past, 3 officials worked in this office. Now we have a Zoning Administrator, Building Inspector, Assessor, etc. The Elected officials and Board should be ashamed of themselves, for allowing money to be spent in this manner. He believes that Township officials should not be voting on their own salary increases. He compared his taxes from 2006 to 2017- Taxes went up by 28% in 12 years. He said the board seems to be doing it's very best to spend money that comes in. He also wondered about the utility billing and when the

clerk and treasurer are working on it, it shouldn't be part of their 32 hrs. If it's not their statutory duty. It should be considered a side job. Boyd stated that the Township is saving money by doing the billing in-house.

Another citizen had suggested eliminating the Deputy Clerk position to save money. Also commented, that when she comes here, only the deputies are working- no elected officials are at the office. She stated only the Treasurer and her Deputy can collect money in the office,. Treasurer Graser pointed out that she can appoint anyone to take money in her absence, not just her Deputy it can be the Deputy Clerk or Supervisor as long as they are bonded. Graser also stated it is posted when she goes to lunch, or when her office will be closed due to no coverage at her window.

Another citizen suggested there be a salary commission formed to discuss the future wage increases if warranted. The board needs to work on gaining the citizens' trust back. She also stated the employees need to work 32 hrs. per week for their insurance. Boyd clarified that yes for employees, not elected officials. Lyons stated "by law" the board cannot mandate the hours for elected officials.

Official/Trustee Comment on Proposed 2019 Budgets:

Lyons: Compensation Committee rules were discussed in the past. Michaels: Township residents should be advised as to why the officials deserve a raise. Boyd read a letter from Lisa Hewitt (County Treasurer): She advised us of the amount due in delinquent taxes are- \$335,181.00 plus \$43,573.53 in interest. The interest amount charges per month will be @ 1%.

Close Public Hearing: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Lyons supported by Segalin to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 pm. Motion carried.

Steve Boyd, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk