

Elk Rapids Township
315 Bridge Street, Elk Rapids
Budget Hearing Minutes
March 25, 2014

Present: A. Isenhart, M. Szymanski, B. White, S. Boisvert, D. Amos
Also Present: B. Derman, E. Hedin, P. VanDenBerge, Other Audience 17
Absent: None

1. The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.
2. Review of Budgets with Public Questions and Comments

A. General Fund: \$373,035:

Public Comment: D. Richter: is the sportsman club still in the budget? Yes, budgeting \$50,000 again this year. S. Smith: What is the Dog Tax? Revenues from Dog Licenses paid here at the township. Smith suggested that we place an ad in the paper telling people they can purchase them locally from December through February. T. Pearlman asked about the Road Budget and how much we plan to use for Village projects. We are projecting \$100,000 in Township expenditures for this fiscal year.

B. Fire & Ambulance Fund: \$841,404

Public Comment: T. Pressman: Questioned Milton Township's share in the revenue portion. He was told there is a formula based on an agreement with Milton.

Boisvert: I'm not in agreement with the projections provided by the Ambulance Dept. for Ambulance fees to be collected this year. I would hate to come up short again. Also, I have an issue with the amount for on-call rate, which was \$2.55 per hour originally. The Chief stated that according to the Department of Labor we need to be paying a minimum of \$7.40 per hour for all on-call EMT's. We then checked with LARA and found that we interpret that minimum wage requirement differently so I still struggle with that portion of their expenditure budget. T. Pressman: There are conflicting opinions on that. You should have your attorney look into that, but in the mean time you should plan for the worst and hope for the best. T. Pearlman: This is a conflict of law. She suggests that we check with an attorney that knows this type of law and proceed from there. D. Reynolds: Who is left in the proposal process for out sourcing? All three vendors are still in the running at this time. To clarify, there have been no other public meetings since the proposals so there is no way we could eliminate anyone at this time. D. Reynolds: The Board received the packet of information regarding MMR and said they were going to contact MMR regarding some of the legal questions. Reynolds thought that MMR should have come more prepared to their presentation to answer those questions. Chief Hedin: What is the timeline for the outsourcing decision? This has not been discussed yet and this budget hearing is not really the place to set that timeline. C. Keenan: Question on the Fire Budget: How many hours a week is the proposed fire station position? It would be approximately 32 hours a week day time plus training and fires which would make it close to 40 hours. This is what has been proposed but the board has not voted on the job description yet.

C. Ambulance Memorial Fund: \$1,600

D. Fire Memorial Fund: \$1,100

E. Birch Lake Sewer O & M Fund: \$60,000

Public Comment: Amos asked how we are doing with pumps and supplies. Pumps have been purchased out of the replacement fund handled by the s Village so far. We may need to look at rates this year. P. Brady: If there is a rate increase planned please have information ready for the Birch Lake Association annual meeting which is held near the July 4th weekend.

F. Bass Lake Weed Control Fund: \$4,000

Public Comment: T. Baker: Is there a notice sent to the residents if it is decided that spraying for weeds will be necessary? Yes

G. Road Fund: \$100,000: White: We budgeted \$100,000 but we haven't heard from the Road Commission. We will probably spend about half of what we have budgeted on roads in the Village this year.

Budget Hearing closed at 7:35PM

Minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board meeting.

Bill White, Supervisor

Shelley Boisvert, Clerk