

Elk Rapids Township Budget Public Hearing, March 18, 2015, 4:30 PM

The Budget Public Hearing of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St. Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor White at 4:30 pm. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.

Present: Supervisor: Bill White, Clerk: Shelley Boisvert, Treasurer: Mike Szymanski, Trustee: Aaron Isenhart and Trustee: Dorance Amos

Also Present: B. Derman, and 11 members in the audience.

1. Pledge of allegiance
2. Review of budgets with public questions and comments

A. General Fund: \$401,380

Public Comment: B. Miller-Why is there an increase in Assessing Contract Services? The Township may look into contracting the assessing services out this year and it may be more expensive. C. Keenan-Were there Salary benchmarks used to come up with the increases proposed? Yes. Surrounding townships in Antrim and Grand Traverse County Board salaries were looked at. F. Rosengren-is it normal for Boards to determine their own raises, and why are you looking at this during this time of year? Yes, it is normal, and this is the budget for the new fiscal year that begins April 1 so this is and always has been when salaries are proposed. C. Keenan-What does the Trustee Wages line item cover? It covers the annual salary amount of \$2,000 for each trustee along with an estimated per diem amount for each meeting. B. Miller-HERTHA expenses-if the money budgeted for projects during the year are not spent, will those amounts roll over to the next year. No, budgets do not roll over to the next year.

B. Fire & Ambulance Fund: \$462,150

Public Comment: T. Pressman-You said that once we contracted out the ambulance service that the Township would save money. If that was the case then why haven't you lowered the millage for Fire and Ambulance service? The millage was reduced this year to 2.2 mills down from 2.5 mills from last year. S. Shockley-There seems to be reduction in the Fire and Ambulance budget and I commend the Board for the hard work last year. He congratulated the Board for doing the right thing, bringing quality service at a lower price. C. Keenan-Did you say that the GT Band Grant was used for education and training? No, you were told that money from the State, for the purpose providing instruction for education, was utilized for that purpose, not the grant from the GT Band. B. Miller-Are the anticipated revenues from Milton Township prorated? No, the amount of \$73,785 listed under "Anticipated" was what was received to date from Milton Township for their share of ambulance services for the fiscal year 2015/2015. We won't know until after the year end audit for Elk Rapids Township is completed if more will be due from Milton.

C. Ambulance Memorial Fund: \$2,653

Public Comment: C. Keenan-What do you plan to do with the money in the Ambulance Memorial fund at this point? White stated that there have been discussions on possibly purchasing a large plaque or carved stone for the front of the Ambulance building thanking all the ambulance employees for their dedication over the many years.

D. Fire Memorial Fund: \$100 – no public comment

E. Birch Lake Sewer Fund: \$83,000 – no public comment

F. Bass Lake Weed Control Fund: \$2,000 – no public comment

G. Road Fund: \$100,000 – no public comment

Any more comments on the budgets? No

3. Public hearing was closed at 5:00 pm.

4. Resolution 2015-5 General Appropriation Act for 2015-2016 Budget:

White stated the resolution contains all the millage rates and the budget amounts for fiscal year 2015/2016 that were presented today. He asked if there were any changes and there were not.

Motion/S: Amos/Szymanski to approve Resolution 2015-5. Roll Call Vote: Amos, Isenhart, Szymanski, White and Boisvert all voting Yes, 0 No. Motion APPROVED. This will take effect April 1, 2015.

5. Public Comment: C. Keenan-By adopting the resolution, you just approved all the revenues and all the expenditures that you have in the 2015/2016 budget. Correct. After the public comments you received you can approve this without any change? Yes, White asked if there were any changes and there were not.

There were no more public comments.

Meeting was adjourned: 5:10 pm.

Shelley Boisvert, Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333

Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting