

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD

March 10, 2014

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, March 10, 2014

Members present: Nancy Price, Treasurer, Judy Sabaitis, Clerk, Larry Omo, Trustee, and Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Absent: Sue Miller, Supervisor. Also in attendance were 10 guests.

The Ovid Township Public Budget Hearing was called to order by Ron Sampsel at 7:00 P.M.

The Board led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget for 2014-2015. The revenues total \$414,437 and the expenses total \$414,437, resulting in a balanced budget.

Sampsel opened the floor for public comment. Omo inquired about the increase in the fire protection costs. Sampsel stated that the budgeted estimates for the budget covers the Lakeland Fire Department's increase. Sampsel asked if anyone present had any recommendations or amendments to the budget plan. Andy AcMoody asked for clarification on why revenue amounts are down and expenditures are up. Price explained the differences are due to a slight carry over linked to whatever monies are in Certificates of Deposits. Sabaitis stated that the State provides the yearly projected revenue sharing monies for each township and that the budget is then based on those numbers.

Price provided a summary of the summer and winter 2013 tax collection and recent tax settlement with the Branch County Treasurer. The total 2013 taxes collected were \$5,775,165.10, which includes \$1,651,130.70 for summer and \$4,124,034.40 for winter. The total delinquent taxes were \$322,629.16, which includes \$66,036.10 for summer and \$256,593.06 for winter.

Sampsel closed the Public Budget Hearing at 7:13 P.M.

Regular Board Meeting

Ron Sampsel called the Regular Board Meeting to order directly following the Public Hearing.

AGENDA: Nancy Price made a motion to approve the agenda, supported by Larry Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES: Omo made a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes from February 10, 2014, supported by Price. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sampsel stated that the Treasurer's Report would be placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Appointment to Ovid Township Planning Commission.
 - a. Andy AcMoody, Ovid Township Planning Commission Chairman, stated that three candidates; Lloyd Barrows, Mark Beurle, and Chris Donbrock were all interviewed for the open Planning Commission position. Chris Donbrock was recommended by the interview

committee for the position. Sampsel made a motion to appoint Chris Donbrock to the Planning Commission. Motion was supported by Sabaitis.

b. Upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Sampsel and Sabaitis

Nay: Omo and Price

Motion was tabled until next meeting when full Ovid Township Board may be present.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Banking Resolution and Money Markets

a. Sabaitis outlined banks to be used by Ovid Township Board, including Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, Monarch Community Bank, Century Bank & Trust, PNC Bank, Sturgis Bank, Flagstar Bank, and Honor Credit Union. Omo made a resolution to continue with the banks currently used, supported by Sabaitis.

b. Upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Sampsel, Omo, Price, and Sabaitis

Nay: None

RESOLUTION CARRIED.

B. Set Dates and Times for Regular Township Meetings.

a. Omo made a resolution to maintain the current schedule for the Ovid Township's Monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M., supported by Price.

b. Upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Sampsel, Sabaitis, Omo, and Price

Nay: None

RESOLUTION CARRIED

C. Contractual Services – Lakeland Fire Department

a. Sampsel stated the contract with the Lakeland Fire Department for services to Ovid Township requires payment of \$70,000 per year, payable quarterly, with April 1st, 2014 as the beginning date for the contract. The contract is a three-year agreement to begin on April 1st, 2014 and ending on March 31st, 2017. Sampsel made a resolution to approve the contract, supported by Price.

b. Upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Sampsel, Sabaitis, Omo, and Price

Nay: None

RESOLUTION CARRIED. The Contract will be signed and returned to Lakeland Fire Department.

D. Set Per Diem and Mileage Rate for 2014

a. Sabaitis made a resolution to revise the current mileage rate to match the IRS rate of \$0.56 per mile, supported by Omo.

b. Upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Sampsel, Sabaitis, Omo, and Price

Nay: None
RESOLUTION CARRIED.

E. Adopt Ovid Township 2014-2015 Budget

- a. Price made a resolution to accept the budget as presented, supported by Sabaitis.
- b. Upon a roll call vote, the results were as follows:
Aye: Sampsel, Sabaitis, Omo, and Price
Nay: None
RESOLUTION CARRIED.

F. Grant Agreement to Convert to EPoll Book for Elections

- a. Sabaitis presented information about a grant to purchase the EPoll Book for elections. The grant covers the cost of the EPoll dedicated laptop, accessories, software, and scanner. Sabaitis recommended converting the township to the EPoll Book.
- b. Sabaitis made a motion that she be allowed to sign a grant agreement to convert Ovid Township to EPoll Book for use in future elections, supported by Price. MOTION CARRIED.

G. Request to Purchase Scanner and Installation for the QVF Program

- a. Sabaitis made a motion to purchase through ZetaOne a scanner with installation for the Michigan QVF (Qualified Voter Files) which is used for issuing and tracking absent voter applications/ballots and a portable printer for use with the EPoll Book laptop with a cost not to exceed \$600. Supported by Price. MOTION CARRIED.

H. Recommendation from Planning Commission on Special Approval Use at 685 West Channel Drive – Short's On the Water (Previously The Channel Stop)

- a. Amy Short of Short's On the Water discussed her company's plans to operate a waterfront store featuring food, beer, wine, and marine gas. Short plans to open by Memorial Day weekend. Hours of operation are scheduled to be 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. weekdays, 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. on the weekends.
- b. Price made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit, supported by Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dorothy Cherry spoke on behalf of the Branch District Libraries about a proposal that will be placed on the August 2014 primary ballot calling for a 0.5 millage increase for additional library services in Branch County. Cherry shared documentation about the District Library Board's budget and explained that library funding has decreased in recent years due to change in distribution of penal fines which are now applied to the judicial system. Cherry stated that, if approved, most of the increase levied would be used to maintain libraries' hours of operation. A small portion of the increase would provide for repair and maintenance of the Coldwater Public Library. Cherry advised anyone with questions or concerns about the proposal to contact her.

REPORTS:

ZONING-Russ Jennings submitted the zoning report for February 2014. Jennings stated two permits were issued for February. One permit was issued for Lockwood Community Church. The second permit

was issued to Sean Groves, which Jennings stated was the source of some concerns to be further discussed. Jennings informed the board that a ZBA Hearing is set for March 30th, 2014 to hear a request to allow a set back variance on Miller Road. In addition, a Special Use Hearing has been set for March 27th, 2014 to hear a request to reopen the former Boat House Restaurant. Jennings updated the board regarding a violation by Rick and Carol Gilmore, 579 Pearl Beach Rd, involving a non-compliant deck at their home. Jennings says weather has not allowed for thorough surveying of the deck or the Gilmore property. Jennings stated the Gilmores plan to file for a variance. Upon completion of Jennings's report, Don Vrablic, ZBA member, asked if a stop order had been placed on the Groves' permit at 559 Maple Knoll Rd. Vrablic stated that Groves' construction exceeds what was granted in the approved variance. Vrablic recommended a re-hearing by the ZBA on Groves' variance. Jennings stated he was reviewing with ZBA members on how to proceed in the matter.

ASSESSING-Sue Miller was absent. No report.

DPW-No report.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER-Don Vrablic presented the Branch County Commissioner's Report including the following subjects:

State Revenue sharing and the impact on Branch County, potholes and repair, SB 636, Cold weather and impact on road crews, proposal for creation of Coldwater State park

CEMETERY SEXTON: George Baker, Sexton, stated there was one burial in January. Sabaitis asked about tree removal associated with outstanding insurance claim. Baker stated that weather has delayed removal and trimming of several trees.

CORRESPONDENCE-

Department of Liquor Control, Liquor License Notice, re: Short's, 685 W. Channel Drive

D.E.Q, Large quantity withdrawal, Sauk River, Hauska Farms (Bruce Hauska)

D.E.Q. Large quantity withdrawal, Sauk River, Keith Pohl

State of Michigan, Campground Construction Permit – addition of 3 modern sites (21-23) – electric only, Lakeside Campground, David Houser, 470 Grass Lake Road

State of Michigan, Campground License Renewal, Lakeside Campground, David House, 470 Grass Lake Road

ADJOURNMENT: Price made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40, supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes Prepared by Charlotte Knisely