

WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TRUSTEE'S NOTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

ATTENDEES: Mark Messick, Greg Rainbolt, Margaret Young, David Pollard, Mary Sue Kane and Mary Lou Habicht

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by Greg Rainbolt followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Greg stated that Peggy Young was not present at the time of the opening of the meeting but was on her way.

Greg Rainbolt: Next order of business is Approval of WRT Board Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2014. Do I have a motion to open that? I will make the motion. Would you like to second the motion?

David Pollard: I second.

Greg: Having a first and a second, all of those in favor, first of all is there any discussion on the minutes?

Dave: No.

Greg: Hearing no discussion I would like to ask for an Aye vote for approval of the WRT Board Meeting Minutes of Sept. 8, 2014. (Dave Pollard and Greg Rainbolt both said Aye). The minutes has passed and approved. Next order of business is the WRT Resolution 2014-01, that is Adoption of the WRT 2014 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies. I will open up the floor to trustee Mark Messick.

Mark: What we can do is, I will read the ordinance in its entirety and then we could probably discuss the projected budget that I gave you and then I will pass out what we talked about after that. Will that be alright?

Greg: That will be fine.

(Mark read the ordinance, please see the attached copy)

Mark: In the General Fund the amount of the approved budget as presented in this resolution would be \$120,030 for the general fund. The adopted tax levy would be \$120,030. The adopted tax rate would be 0.0066. For the township assistance which is 0840 the adopted budget would be \$50,100. The adopted tax levy would be \$36,000 with an adopted tax rate of 0.0020. The total budget would be \$170,130. The adopted tax levy would be \$156,030 with an overall adopted tax rate of 0.0086. The members have an opportunity to agree, deny or abstain from their vote. The members being Gregory A. Rainbolt, David S. Pollard and Margaret M. Young. With that being said I gave you this prior to the discussion. I guess what I would say is at the last meeting I told you I would make adjustments so what I have done is I removed any and all increases in Personal Services so this year's budget is identical to last year's budget for salaries in Personal Services. We did not change the Section 2 Supplies; it is identical to last year's. Everything in the Other Services & Charges is also the same with the exception of Insurance and we have asked for an increase from \$4,750 to \$5,500 or an increase of \$750. Utilities, we also asked for an increase from \$11,500 to \$14,000 for an increase of \$2,500. Repairs and Maintenance compared to last year we have \$7,500 which is showing a decrease of

\$1,251.48. So for the Other Charges & Services we are asking for a budget of \$53,150 which is a difference of \$1,998.52. That is the increase for the general budget. If you turn to page 2 Welfare Assistance you will notice there have been no additions or subtractions asked for in Welfare Administration. If you turn to page 3 Financial Systems, there have been no additions or subtractions asked for, so they remain the same. So what I'm asking the Board to do is to approve for an increase in our budget by \$1998.52 from the previous year's appropriated amounts. That is reflected in the Ordinance and that is reflected in the budget form which I will be giving you.

Greg: Now the question is and I know you just went over it but my mind is a little fuzzy at the moment. On Utility Services, that being increased, what was the change in the amount for?

Mark: It is because our amounts have gone up. In years past utilities has been an area that I have been able to go to and move money out of if I needed it somewhere else. This year we only have 36% of that budget left and we are just now getting out of what would normally be 30% left so we are only 6% to the good and we haven't, this month and last month we don't really have a utility bill but next month, November and December we will use it all up. We won't have anything left at all. We will be in the negative.

Dave: You have a third of the money left and you have a third of the year to go.

Mark: Dave we have 30% of the year left and we only have 36%. But this month, we have gas heat and we have not had a gas bill to speak of since we quit heating in the spring. Our big months for our gas bill is in October, November and December and if you look at the chart that they give us Dave, look it goes like this, it starts in January up here and it dives way down to the summer and stays down there and then it comes right back up. We are going up the hill and it looks like we are going to finish maybe in the negative and I may have to move money from somewhere else in order to make those dollars work out. Any other questions?

Greg: On Insurance, I understand there has been an increase on that.

Mark: Actually from the numbers that they gave us because that came after we had worked our budget, the numbers that we are going to be paying this year I'm going to be quite a bit in the negative. It is going to be around \$5,600 but I only put \$5,500 because that is what I had to work off of. I thought the increase was going to be around 15% but it has actually been greater than 15%. The other thing that I failed to put in the budget but I will work it out from another category is that I have to be bonded because it is a new term starting in January. That bond is going to cost about \$100 a year times 4, so it will be about \$400 which we will expend in the front end because it is cheaper to do that than to buy it every year. But I will find a way to work that out in the budget. But that is another reason why I really want you to maintain that increase of \$750 for the Other Insurance.

Greg: I know you have been good about when you need to transfer within a category about letting us know and that is not required of you but the thing here is that once we approve this amount it is yours to do on it and I hope you will continue to advise and listen to our comments on the moves.

Mark: I definitely do and I respect you guys tremendously for what you do and your input as noted by the fact that I took the Professional Services back down to \$7,500.

Greg: Yes and I like that part about it. For the amount of assistance we actually give out and I know it costs to maintain the office and as the public looking at this and saying we are expending all of this money and not knowing any difference that we have to be prudent.

Mark: But our story is pretty strong though because like this year or a year ago we had a meeting with all of the community leaders and so everybody knows what we are doing and we have better relationships in the community and like Mt. Pleasant, we had a lady come in that was living in Copper Chase and there was just no way that we could help her and we couldn't have helped her with the amount that she wanted anyway because it is so expensive but Mt. Pleasant paid her whole bill and kept her in there. A similar deal where we sent somebody down to Bargersville Christian. So our relationship with the community benevolence organizations, that is part of our job and really it is not a tax dollar but we save the township huge money every year and that is reflected on your TA7 report that you get in the Annual Report every year. The other thing that we are seeing an increase in this year which I did not, I'm having to work with it, is snow removal. If we get it again then I will be borrowing from some of these categories because this is a working tool and I don't think we will go over this budget but I think we may come closer to spending this total budget more than we ever have.

Greg: I'm in understanding of your needs and possible expenditures rising you know and that is why I don't want to cut it down to bare bones, I would like to give you some flexibility especially with the older building, with older equipment in it and everything. I like that you reduced that Professional Services. I mean that is an area that I think we need to reduce. I think I can live with this budget. I thank you for listening to us and watching it and hopefully we can continue to work together.

Mark: I took your advice but I did not give up on the Johnson-Melloh coming out and looking at the building. They spent a good part of a day here looking at everything and they are going to put a proposal together and we are going to talk about the grant still.

Dave: Who was that?

Mark: Johnson-Melloh.

Greg: The company he mentioned the last time.

Mark: Solar solutions. They are going to put a proposal together and I'm going to involve you guys in it when I get the proposal and stuff and if we can move forward on that grant and we need money to do so I will come to you for the additional appropriation. But if it is not something that is going to move forward, and I agree from the standpoint that if we go to do that we will bring the public in because we will have an additional appropriation meeting and we can see their feelings on it too and that just makes it more transparent for everybody.

Dave: If you are going to spend that money they will be here.

Greg: Dave do you have any other thoughts on anything, any questions you would like to ask?

Dave: I was really concerned about the one area that you said you went back to the \$7,500 on Professional Services. I was going to be pretty tough on that. I'm glad you did it.

Mark: Well I told you last time it was not that big of a deal to me. It is just an area that I thought if we get the grant that we may need.

Dave: Like you said if you need it, you are going to get it.

Mark: It might be a case where I can look at other parts of the budget and see if there is an area that we can squeeze by but if we couldn't squeeze by I would definitely come to you.

Greg: In my opinion it is hard to justify spending a lot of money on Professional Services as far as attorney fees unless they are absolutely needed and engineers and everything with the aid we give out.

Mark: I need all of these copies signed but you have to have a motion, you have to move it and pass it before you sign it.

Greg: You're right, I want to open for a motion to adopt the WRT 2015 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies.

Dave: Are you making a motion?

Greg: I will make a motion.

Dave: I'll second.

Greg: Having a first and a second, all those in favor of adopting the 2015 Budget and Tax Levies indicate by saying Aye (Greg and Dave both said Aye). The motion is approved. Next we have the WRT Salary Resolution 2014-02.

Mark: I'm just going to read it, it is identical to the previous one we had with the exception that I'm asking that the Part-Time Clerks now be paid \$16.50. We talked about that at our last meeting and that is the only difference in that. If you want me to I will read this and then I will hand it to you for discussion and you can pass or not pass. (Mark read the resolution – see attachment).

Greg: I want to make a note that Peggy Young, Board Member, is in attendance on this. I'm going to need a motion to adopt the WRT Resolution 2014-02 establishing the salaries of the township officers and employees. Do I have a motion?

Peggy: I make a motion.

Dave: I second.

Greg: Having a first and a second do we have any discussion on this resolution?

Peggy: Did we just increase the ladies?

Greg: Yes.

Peggy: Ok.

Mark: Within the \$14,000 that we have budgeted for this year.

Peggy: Now the per case is that per case completed or per case?

Mark: It is per case. In other words if we have to close the case and send him back out he gets paid again. It is basically per visit but it is per case.

Greg: Do we have any other discussion on this resolution, the salary resolution? Hearing none I will ask for a vote to approve the WRT 2014-02 Resolution establishing salary of township officers and employees. All those in favor say Aye (Greg, Peggy and Dave all said Aye). Three Ayes, the resolution has passed.

Mark: I would ask that you all sign all of those copies also because they accompany the Budget too. Any other business that you would like me to talk about while you are signing all of that stuff?

Greg: I don't have any other business does anybody else have any other business?

Dave: Is there still a question about a couple of jobs to be done at one of our cemeteries or something?

Mark: Yes we are having headstones repaired over at Lowe Cemetery as we speak. There is a headstone that was repaired at Messersmith. We will be having the trees that have dead wood in them that would require that we might have broken headstones; we will be having those taken care of as soon as the grass starts to brown a little bit and we don't have to worry about the limbs coming down.

Dave: Do you already have somebody involved with that?

Mark: I will be taking bids on it because of the amount that I may need to do in Lowell, not Lowell but in Lyons. We also, this is the year that I will invest, I have already done it, but I will have a couple of the fences repaired. We have a fence over at Lyons that the gate does not shut and we have a fence down at Miller that a tree has fallen on part of it and needs just to be repaired, no replacements just some repairs. I will probably try to find a handyman to do the work.

Dave: You are saying there is quite a bit of tree work to do?

Mark: In Lyons there is, yes. That is the one that is right on the creek and there are a lot of trees there. There a lot of trees in the cemetery. That is the one that we had the vandalism in last year. That is the one on Frye Rd behind Copenhaver's home.

Peggy: Did you find out how many BTUs are in the gas furnace upstairs?

Mark: I had those people here just last week and they could not even tell me. We do know that I did give them the chart and I will forward what I sent to them to you, how much gas we used last year and what the usage was. I don't know. If you have somebody that you would like to come look at it, we would welcome them to come look at it. It just does not say on the furnaces and I don't know where to find it when you take the cover off, I'm not that mechanically inclined.

Peggy: Ok.

Mark: I can tell you they are Bryant heaters. I can tell you another thing that we are doing and we are working on, we are about to accept bids on our insurance not only from Erie but also from Franklin Insurance and also from Farm Bureau Insurance. The agents are Denny Powers with Erie, Dan Morgan with Farm Bureau and John Ault with Franklin Insurance. They are all three submitting a bid package for our insurance for this coming year. Because of the increases I felt that we should actually go out and have it looked at.

Dave: What insurance is that for?

Mark: That is all of our insurance, our liability, our...

Dave: You are having each of them give you a package?

Mark: Right.

Dave: Ok.

Mark: Everybody is bidding on our insurance.

Peggy: Because Erie went up this year.

Greg: Yes.

Dave: Oh it did?

(Board Members are signing the forms)

Mark: She may sign that or you can open it back up.

Peggy: No.

Greg: We can open it back up.

Peggy: No.

Greg: I don't want you to sign it.

Peggy: Then open it up.

Greg: I would like to reopen the WRT Resolution 2014-01 for adoption of 2015 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies. Peggy Young is now in here and we would like for her to vote on this also.

Mark: Somebody make a motion.

Greg: I will make a motion to reopen.

Dave: I'll second.

Greg: Hearing a first and a second we will reopen the budget.

Peggy: Did anything change?

Greg: I will have Mark tell you.

Mark: Basically what we did Peggy, if you have this which I gave you last week too. In the Personal Services we left it the same as last year. Supplies, we left it the same as last year. The only increases I'm asking for is Other Insurance and Utilities and that made the total increase of \$1,998.52 over the previous year's appropriated amounts. I left the Welfare Administration the same, we reduced that back down. We also brought the Direct Assistance back in exactly where it was last year. We took out the Professional Services. We took out the increase in the salaries and the Social Security as we talked that we might do last time. I took the Professional Services back hearing what I felt were your desires from listening to the three of you at the last meeting.

Peggy: Ok.

Greg: Any more discussion on this? All those in favor of WRT Resolution 2014-01 of approval indicate by saying Aye (Greg, Peggy and Dave all said Aye). Three Ayes with the third Board Member in here, the Resolution has passed.

Mark: The last thing that I can tell you is that the last two days I have been at the ITA Educational Conferences. There have been some changes that we are going to be implementing nothing major, just changes with the law and stuff like that that we need to be aware of. Tomorrow we meet with the DLGF and the SBA and I will be there again all day tomorrow. Did learn a couple of things that other townships are doing when they are interviewing for township assistance that we are going to incorporate here, just a couple of questions that we will ask that we normally don't ask, not anything major but just good practices. We were applauded for a lot of things that we already do. People are taking some of the stuff that we do and using it for best practices in their townships. It has been a good meeting, makes for a long day.

(end of cassette)

Meeting is adjourned.