

WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TRUSTEE'S NOTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order by Greg Rainbolt at 7:00 PM. First order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greg Rainbolt: On the agenda tonight, before we start the next portion on the agenda I would like to note that Mary Sue Kane is here, Mary Lou Habicht is here, Dave Pollard, Mark Messick and myself, Greg Rainbolt. Missing at the moment is Peggy Young (she arrived after the meeting had started). The next order of business is the White River Township 2016 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies. This is going to be a public hearing, before I open up the public hearing I am going to ask the trustee, Mark Messick, to please present the budget.

Mark Messick: As I sent you a packet either by mail or by putting it in your box here, the only thing that changed from last year's budget is the Printing and Advertising is zero dollars which is under your Township Fund item 3C. We no longer have to advertise the budget. We still have to print the Annual Report but we have enough monies in Professional Services that we should be able to handle that portion so I eliminated that line item as far as funding. So that made our total budget for the township to be \$119,030. There were no changes in the Assistance Budget so it remained at \$50,100. Making the combined budget \$169,130. That is it.

Greg: Ok, I would like to open up this portion to a public hearing. There is no public here, just the township residents who are sitting at this table. Do we have any public comments?

Dave Pollard: I have none.

Greg: I have looked thru some of this Mark and as far as revenues with the tax levies and stuff from last year have you received the whole portion?

Mark: This year we did receive, if you look on the Annual Report that I gave you, if you look on the 2nd page it will show the receipts and a breakdown of the receipts. This year to date we have received \$76,968.35 for township. That breaks down to Certified Shares of \$1802.00, Property Tax Replacement of \$2802.00. We received a refund for our insurance that we had not used when we changed our insurance from Erie Insurance to Franklin Insurance of \$2477.00. We earned interest of \$4.84. We received CVET of \$197.00, Financial Institute Tax of \$73.50, General Property Tax of \$63,153.13 and License Excise Tax of \$6458.88, making the total \$76,968.35. In the Excess Levy Fund we received \$58.37. In our Township Assistance Fund we received from the General Property Tax \$18,871.44 and from the License Excise Tax for the Assistance we received \$1913.75. The 999 Fund that shows on there, that is a zero thing. We received around \$90 some thousand dollars, almost \$100,000 when you add the General Fund with the Assistance Fund.

Greg: There are some areas there, I'm getting some updated totals from here that actually have changed and I have some questions.

Mark: On the expense side?

Greg: Yes. The Utility Services, we have \$14,000 in there and there is 60%, can you explain that a little bit? In Repairs and Maintenance below that, I know what that was.

Mark: In the utilities area you know our highest utilities are when we heat and we are not in heating. We have had a fairly cool summer and so when we get into heating is when we have to...

Greg: So you anticipate a lot more expenditure on that?

Mark: That is true every year. Really if we would go look at it year to year it would explain it better but we are only looking at from the start of the year until now.

Greg: Ok. Are you anticipating anything coming up or any savings as far as what is projected in here?

Mark: You know, I guess I'm not understanding what you are asking.

Greg: I know you have to have a budget.

Mark: The only place that we seem to have problems is in the Care of the Township Properties and the Cemeteries. We seem to spend pretty much close to our budget in those areas every year between trees and other things that go on. As far as savings go we normally don't spend all of our Communication, our phone bill we usually don't spend the full amount there as you can see we have 61% left and so there is an area that we, we have been on the same plan for 5 years and have never received an increase from them. So we are hoping we continue to have that but we might have an increase. The other stuff, you can see Other Insurance we have \$730.00 left in that area and when we get our workman's comp audit that will probably be spent, so that area is pretty tight year to year. Utilities, like I said it fluctuates. Repairs and Maintenance, we have some repairs that we need done right now. There is some water damage that we had when we had that really heavy rain and wind, so that is going to go down from where it is currently. If The Journal is going to start delivering maybe we will re-take The Journal.

Greg: What seems to be the biggest cost on the Care of the Township Office Property?

Mark: Well we had a cool summer so we mowed a lot. We were mowing every week for a while there and not even staying ahead of the mowing. I would drive in here and say boy the place needs to be mowed. That is the biggest cost, is the mowing. This year I planted 5 trees. I did some improvements on the property.

Greg: I would like to note that Peggy Young is in attendance with us also.

Mark: So if we go onto the Welfare Administration, if you look over there, we are probably on schedule for everything but you know because we have had fewer cases we have not spent much money on the investigator, but does not mean that we don't need to have that budgeted. We have some items that we are required to have in there. We have not spent anything on postage, I don't know if we will this year but that will mean that next year we may have to.

Dave: It is going up again.

Mark: We usually do it just before it goes up, we buy the Forever Stamps and that is why we haven't spent anything this year because we bought them last year. Legal Expenses, we have spent about half of our budget as far as talking to Mr. Buschmann. We did a lien on that one cremation we had. We also had to talk to him about a couple of cases. So that is pretty much everything. If you go over to what we have put out as far as Direct Assistance, you can see there are several areas where we have not spent anything and we hope not to. We have to have money in there for emergency physician; we have to have money in there for food and

household. We have to have money for clothing and shoes but we have pantries around here that usually take care of that for us. Shelter this year we are at 62%. We had one whole month that I don't think we had any assistance at all.

Greg: I saw that, I think it was in July.

Mark: In July we only had 2 appointments and neither one qualified for assistance. We are well off as far as the amount of assistance that we have offered. We have only paid out \$8285.00 in assistance. I think last year at this time it was about \$11,000. We are probably back to where we were somewhere in the early 2000s now. But unemployment if you saw today's paper, is at the lowest rate that it has been since about 2004. We have a 10 year low for unemployment and that is fortunate.

Greg: I also want to note that we were fortunate this summer there was a flood in the area again and Mark and I were both out in the community looking around and seeing what was going on. That could have turned real quickly. The damage, most people I think their homeowner's insurance and things like that took care of it. Johnson County took care of the tree problem.

Mark: Brentridge had quite a bit of water and so did over off of Bomar in the township had quite a bit of water again. Of course Bluff Acres was close to being flooded again and actually some of the homes just outside of Bluff Acres were flooded. In Old Smith Valley, if those homes had still been there they would have been flooded because you could not pass thru that area at all. The people whose sump pumps did not work got in trouble, they had problems. Greg and I had talked the first night and the second day about whether or not we needed to have an emergency meeting but we did not get any phone calls and so we decided that the people were not seeking assistance therefore we did not hold an emergency meeting.

Greg: Any other comments from the public? Hearing no other comments I would like to close the public hearing. Let's move onto the next order of business, any other business that may come before the board. Mark do you have any business?

Mark: There will be an article in the Center Grove INC magazine in October in which they are highlighting our cemeteries. It is going to be a good read. I have actually seen a preview of the article and it talks about our pioneers and some of the people who are buried in our cemeteries. It also tells the public where our 6 cemeteries are. So that will be coming out in October. We had a lot of weed complaints this year but we didn't mow a single piece of property. Everything got taken care of before we had to send the crew to mow.

Dave: It is a shame that we can't do something about that golf course.

Mark: The golf course I have been in contact with the Shefflebarger trustee, that is the family trustee, and they feel like that there is a good chance that the golf course will be sold before the end of the year and that the people who are going to buy it will make improvements to that property again and take it back from basically being a flood plain.

Dave: So many people see that.

Mark: I know we hear about it. The County Commissioners hear about it because when they call now I refer them to the county because it is the county attorney who basically said there is nothing we can do. That is good news if that closes. It is my understanding that it may be one of the local churches that will buy it and they will use it for a youth area and they may actually bring back soccer golf or something like that.

Greg: Frisbee golf.

Mark: Not Frisbee, this is where they kick a soccer ball and they have a great big hole.

Dave: I have not seen that.

Mark: They have that down at The Legends in Franklin now, soccer football.

Dave: The County will not like that, the church taking it because they will lose tax money on it.

Greg: Does anybody else have anything?

Mark: It is October 6th at the same time. At that time we will have the Adoption Hearing.

Dave: I thought we were going to have a meeting a week from today.

Mark: That was originally. We have to wait 2 weeks before we can adopt the Budget that was presented tonight. The public has 10 days to file an objection. The public that was here.

Greg: You can explain to them why, I kind of mentioned it, why we had to...

Mark: The County even though they had met we had not got their deal that said they had approved our non-binding resolution and we got that I think it was last Tuesday. But at the time the DLGF said it had not been mailed out and they wanted us not to meet until we had that.

Greg: Hearing nothing else from the public, I close the public meeting. Hearing no other business, I make a motion to adjourn.

Dave: Second.

Greg: We have a second. All those in favor of adjournment, say Aye (all Board Members said Aye). Meeting is adjourned.