

**BUDGET WORK SESSION
HARRIS TOWN BOARD
Monday, January 26, 2009, 7:30pm**

The Harris Town Board met on Monday, January 26, 2009 at the Harris Town Hall for a budget and audit work session. However, the audit was postponed as the Treasurer's and Clerk's books had not yet been balanced. The following Officers of the Board were present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Dennis Kortekaas and Larry Key, Treasurer Peg Bishop and Clerk Michele Smith. Absent: none.

The actual expenses had not yet been finalized for 2008, so Peggy led the work session by handing out copies of the 2008 annual report, and reviewed last year's financial information and where we hoped to be financially at the beginning of 2009. She had these thoughts:

ROADS:

- We should end up at the end of 2008 with around \$970,000
- The majority of Wendigo Park Road resurfacing was thought to have been paid in 2008 with the exception of a small retainer.

If we stay within our budget, we should be able to levy the same amount as we did for 2009 (and 2008) which was \$845,000 – depending on what projects are planned for 2010.

CAPITAL IMPROVMENT

- For 2009, we levied 10k for non dedicated funds, 30k for capital equipment (to replace / purchase – not repair), 50K for the Service Center, and 100k for the road fund.
- The capital equipment plan was reviewed:
 - For 2009, the John Deer 6300 boom mower is due to be replaced (apx \$100,000 – before trade-in).
 - Also, the '03 cub cadet lawn tractor is due for replacement.
 - 2 weed trimmers are due to be replaced
 - We need to update Capital Equipment Plan – taking off years that have passed and add the grader.
- If shop/town hall were built at same time – we'll need to decide what we want for the Service Center, and come up with a plan – a layout. Then, ask Julie for a drawing.

Peg recommended levying the same (total of \$190K) as we did for 2009 and 2008. It's growing steadily.

FIRE:

- The renewal for 2009 went up \$9,000 / year per notification that Peg rec'd.
- We are currently under budget by 10k for 2008,
- It's a good idea not to get too much in there.

Peg thought we should be able to keep the same levy for 2010, or \$65,000.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- Levied 40k last year
- A lot of items are now coded to the Service Center, but really should be equipment? For example, parts for tractors, which are kept at the garage at the Service Center but are for the tractor (equipment).
- As a result, this fund's balance is going down each year. We could transfer from Equipment if needed.
- Another reason the balance is going down is that part of our past income was from HACA (Homestead Agriculture Credit); it was part of the levy that was voted on. We no longer get this nor local government aid.
- The building material for the new warming shack at Wendigo is mostly paid for. However, we will have moving and electric hook up expenses yet in 2009.

Peg recommends keeping levy the same at \$40,000

RECREATION

- We will be a little under where we thought we'd be at end of 2008 due to building the Wendigo Warming shack.

However, probably still okay with 30,000 levy for \$2010

CEMETERY

- This fund is holding it's own at a balance of around \$50,000 for the past several years.
- Will we be ready for surveying and laying out of the new addition by this summer?
- We will need roads through there eventually – and blacktopped.
- When another section is ready and "opened", maintenance costs will go up. May want to find out what amount other cemeteries are selling sites for. Resident/Non Resident costs...and opening fees.

Peg thinks levying \$30,000 for 2010 would be okay...unless we'll going to do something in 2010.

EQUIPMENT

- The balance of this account has gone up a little each year...but we'll be \$10,000 less than anticipated for 2009 starting amt.
- Smaller pieces of equipment purchases have come out of the fund in 2008 because we had it here – and didn't need to use capital equipment.

Peg thought it would be okay to levy the same amount as last year: \$40,000

ROAD AND BRIDGE

- Wendigo Park Road resurfacing was paid in Dec.2008 and was not in the budget, nor were the turnarounds that were done on Root Road and Norway.
- As a result, our balance at end of 2008 will be only about \$120,000 –\$300,000 less than what we anticipated.
- We will have \$300,000 in Capt Impv/Roads by 2010.
- 2008 Prioritization Rpt showed Mishawaka was #1 – needs to be ground up and relayed and costs will be over \$300,000. Is really a 4 ton road right now – especially in the spring. However, we don't want to post it as such year-round as school buses, garbage & fuel trucks couldn't legally get in then (they are more than 4 ton per axle).
- We do want to keep dump trucks and gravel truck off of Mishawka Rd after the gravel pit. Many such trucks are currently using Mishawaka Road as a bypass around Grand Rapids.
- The turn around on Underwood Road is hoped to be done in 2009
- Wagon Wheel turn around – is a gravel road project for 2009
- Peg said in 2009, have enough for UW turnaround...but that's about it.
- She reminded us that our roads are in great shape compared to many other townships...but we do have a bigger population.
- Engineering and attorney fees are something to remember...they can be quite high
- Southwood should have trees removed – the whole road.

Hopefully, Peg thought we could get by with asking for same levy as last year: \$300,000

GENERAL:

- We should be about where we thought we'd be at the end of 2008.
- It was noted that variance and conditional use permit expenses come out of this fund...since they're not directly road related. We need to watch the special meetings for such...and request reimbursement when we can.
- If we don't have enough money for centennial in the General fund, we can take some out of "non-dedicated" capital improvement fund.

Peg thought we'd be okay with same levy as last year...\$150,000

The work session ended at approximately 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Michele Smith, Clerk