

**BUDGET WORK SESSION  
HARRIS TOWN BOARD  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 7:30pm**

The Harris Town Board met at 7:30pm on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at the Harris Town Hall for a budget work session. The following officers of the board were present: Supervisors Gary Rosato, Dennis Kortekaas & Larry Key, Clerk Michele Smith and Treasurer Becky Adams. *Absent:* none.

Also in attendance was Glen Hodgson – SEH road engineer, and residents Dan Butterfield and Judy Myers.

The purposes of this work session were:

- Roads: Continue discussing possible road improvement projects for 2014 based on adopted budget and the repair priority based on 2013 road inspections. Also, to review possible road improvement projects for 2015 and beyond.
- Continue review of past, current, and projected expenses and balances for funds, and consider a recommended 2015 levy for each fund.

**1. Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the Harris Township mission statement

**2. Roads - Glen Hodgson, SEH Engineer**

- Updated road project estimates for possible 2014 projects (see memo)

Per the board’s request, Hodgson provided the board with additional road project cost estimates for possible 2014 projects. The information was summarized as follows, and included an Underwood Road-west project, to revert that part of Underwood to gravel surfacing: (No engineering – construction only.)

○ Underwood Road – east:	\$138,600 (reclaim & 3” resurface; no ditch work included)
○ Lakeview Drive:	\$ 75,000 (reclaim & 3” resurface)
○ Harbor Heights Road:	\$ 42,200 (overlay only – no reclaim)
○ <u>Underwood Road – west:</u>	<u>\$ 73,500 (reverting to gravel; leave turn-around as is)</u>
Total:	\$330,100

Hodgson recommended adding an amount for engineering and contingencies, of apx 20-25% which equated to \$66,000 – \$82,000. He also recommended planning for a “prepaving project”, as was done last year.

- Underwood Road – west was discussed, to revert it back to gravel. Hodgson suggested taking out the existing pavement, hauling it away, and bring in 4” of new gravel. The roadbed borings show 4-8” of gravel currently under the road surface. He talked with Casper Construction about the possibility of reclaim, but Casper is hesitant to do so, due to size & weight of equipment (may bury it).

The board asked what the cost of an *overlay* on Underwood-west would be, IF they wanted to consider that as an option: \$105,000 per Hodgson. And, the cost of total reconstruction based on previous estimates: apx \$500,000. The board reviewed that this is a low volume, dead-end road.

- Regarding Underwood Road – east, and the reclaim/resurface project: The board requested Glen look at the drainage concern near the corner where it meets Wendigo Park Road. Although Supervisor Key felt it would be ideal to route the runoff into the lowland swamp of Kelly’s farm, the landowner will not consider it. Key wondered if they would need to route the water to Wendigo Park Road instead.
- The board discussed waiting to improve Harbor Heights Road and Lake View Drive until 2015, but they also hoped to do Tolerick, Birch, Woodbine, Sunny Beach Addition and part of Sunny Beach Road that year – which would be too much for the budget. Therefore, they preferred to do Harbor Heights and Lake View in 2014 as proposed by Hodgson.

- Overall, the board agreed that they would use \$100,000-\$200,000 from capital improvement road fund as needed, for the bituminous road projects. They also noted there will likely be \$50,000 of revenue coming in from the road state aid and town road allotment, as was received in 2013. There was also \$40,000 budgeted in the road engineering line item.
- Neighborhood meetings for both Underwood Road and Harbor Heights/Lakeview will still be held, per the board, but not until after annual meeting. The results of those meetings may influence the action and timing of improvement of those roads.

### 3. 2015 Budget / Levy

- Reviewed updated proposed levy worksheets for 2015, and determined recommended levy for each fund:

The following fund levies were recommended by the Clerk for 2015 based on prior year's expenses, year ending balances, and the board's discussion at recent budget meetings:

- General: \$150,000 (vs. \$120,000 in 2014 = increase of \$30,000)
- Road & Bridge: \$460,000 (vs. \$430,000 in 2014 = increase of \$30,000)
- Equipment: \$ 15,000 (vs. \$0 in 2014 = increase of \$15,000)
- Cemetery: \$ - 0 - (same as 2014)
- Recreation: \$ 40,000 (same as 2014)
- Bldg & Grounds: \$ 50,000 (same as 2014)
- Fire: \$ 75,000 (vs. \$85,000 in 2014 = decrease of <\$10,000>)
- Capital Impv: \$140,000 (same as 2014)

**TOTAL levy \$930,000 (vs. 865,000 in 2014 = increase of \$65,000)**

- Reviewed effects of a \$65,000 proposed 2015 levy increase on homestead property taxes (see email).

Per Deb Davis's email, the effect of a \$65,000 levy increase in 2015 over the current 2014 homestead property taxes ranged from a \$6.00/year for a home worth \$75,000, to \$65.00/year for a home worth \$500,000. The board agreed that the increases seemed very reasonable – though recognized that *any* increase can be burdensome on some residents.

***After discussing all funds, and roads to be improved in 2014 – and that it's worth it to most residents to pay a little more in property taxes (\$25/year on average) to avoid assessment or turn their paved roads back to gravel – a motion was made by Supervisor Key to recommend a total 2015 levy of \$930,000, which is \$65,000 more levied for 2014. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rosato. Discussion: In order to get the longer township roads improved, the board would likely have to raise the levy a little each year in order to afford the costs. Upon roll call, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.***

### 4. Adjourn

***Motion to adjourn was made at 8:30pm by Supervisor Rosato, with a second by Supervisor Key. Meeting adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith – Harris Twp Clerk

#### Next meeting:

- P&D Meeting - Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.....7:30pm Harris Town Hall (Review *draft* annual report)