

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.
A prayer was led by Michael Clinesmith

Roll Call:

Present: John Stack, Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Sam Tester, Bill Gray
Absent: None

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes to open the public hearing on the 2015-2016 Budget and Operational Tax Rate.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Clinesmith gave a basic explanation regarding the rules to be followed during the public hearing.

Bob Forbes read through the budget line by line.

Fred Welsh was looking at the consumer price index and from 2008 it has increased 11%. He stated the salary increase was in line with where it should be.

Onna Clinesmith mentioned that the last increase for the salaries was in 2006 for the treasurer and clerk, and 2007 for the supervisor. She appreciates the hard work of the board. She questioned the 38% increase for the Trustees. She thought the Trustee's raise should match the 14% raise of the other Board members which would be \$1,764. She added that the Clerk's and Treasurer's phones should get paid at same rate as the Supervisor's and Zoning Administrator's.

Ben Partridge asked if the township was in the annual meeting based on previous comments. He mentioned that a lot of the numbers in the budget were drastically different than in the past, and why is that? Township Seminars could be lower. He asked about the Deputy Supervisor Wages being increased to \$500. He asked what was changing about Election Supplies.

Nancy Zuzula mentioned that for Election Supplies the Township may need to buy new tabulators. There also was an extra \$47,000 to be put into accounts.

John Stack mentioned that a revenue sharing payment accounted for the extra carryover balance.

Ben Partridge asked about the Contingency Fund, is the Township trying to build it up for a certain reason?

John Stack mentioned there was nothing else to fund with the money right now.

Bob Forbes mentioned that there is rumors of a fire truck being purchased by the City.

Ben Partridge asked why Road Work is at \$200,000.

Bob Forbes stated roads need resurfacing. We don't want it to look like Genesee.

John Stack added that \$60,000 still needs to be paid for out of the fund for current road work. There is about \$140,000 left that can be used.

Ben Partridge mentioned with the salaries raised, the he understood that the Board was anticipating a raise.

Fred Welsh thought that Trustee Salary wages were rather low. Trustees are getting about 2.5 times the wage of the Planning Commission. A \$50.00 dollar increase is not out of line for their responsibilities.

Onna Clinesmith mentioned if the Township was paying people what they were worth, the Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor would be getting \$30,000. Other townships' people are being paid \$20,000 or \$15,000. The Trustees are not so far out of bounds.

Dan Zuzula asked the Board the number of hours they worked.

Bob Forbes mentioned that he worked 8 hours a week.

Michael Clinesmith mentioned he calculated the number of hours he worked, which was about 16.6 hours a week.

Dan Zuzula stated that if \$30,000 is what was being paid, the Township should be open full time.

Fred Welsh stated that \$22.00 an hour is a lot of money for people in the Township. That should be gradually worked into.

Ben Partridge stated it sounded like it was the annual meeting and asked if he was going to have the right to speak in the annual meeting.

Bob Forbes stated that the Township was in the budget hearing. He would be able to speak at the annual meeting.

Brenda Putman asked why the figures on the printout do not match those being displayed on the TV screen.

There were some reviewing of the papers, and an updated budget was copied and passed out to audience members.

Ben Partridge asked why the Deputy Clerk budget was being raised. If it is being raised, why is the Clerk getting a raise?

Michael Clinesmith mentioned that there are a lot of responsibilities being placed on the Clerk's office.

Brenda Putman asked what the Deputy Clerk's responsibilities were.

John Stack asked the Supervisor to state what the lawyer told him about the Deputy Clerk.

Bob Forbes stated the lawyer said the Deputy Clerk is for use when the Clerk is absent.

Ben Partridge said he is against raising the Deputy Clerk's budget.

Fred Welsh stated the Township has had this situation for a while.

Ben Partridge stated that this particular Clerk has gotten extra help, if the township gives \$4,500, it would be rewarding misappropriation of funds.

Bob Forbes asked to remember the last clerk had many deputies and they went into Contingency. And the Township did not see them.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Michael Clinesmith and supported by Board Member Bob Forbes.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted

“Aye” (5): **Forbes, Stack, Tester,
Gray, Clinesmith**

“Nay” (0): *None*

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Public Comment:

Onna Clinesmith wanted to thank the Board for the hard work put into the budget and for the work on the park.

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester to adjourn.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor