

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.

Roll Call:

Present: Bob Forbes, Michael Clinesmith, Sam Tester, Bill Gray

Excused Absence: John Stack

Public Hearing opened for a Proposed Special Assessment District for Garbage Collection at 7:02pm.

Attorney Brian Garner started by introducing the legal steps necessary to confirm a special assessment roll.

Supervisor Bob Forbes gave the Vassar Twp garbage assessment history, the reason for raising the assessment including yearly costs and the comparison with other townships.

Ben Partridge questioned if the township should raise the assessment or take money from the general fund.

Brian Garner stated a garbage contract is not required and money taken from the general fund may take away from other things.

Ben Partridge suggested that it does not matter what the people say at the hearing.

Brian Garner stated this meeting is to correct any inaccuracies, as an example, if two lots are being assessed and they need to be combined into one lot.

Ben Partridge said that people were misled about the meeting.

Supervisor Forbes explained Vassar Township only gets 1 percent of taxes paid and is getting a heck of a deal with the garbage contractor.

Ben Partridge disagreed with the \$68,000 figure and thought the general fund got paid back.

Clerk Clinesmith explained the money paid out of the general fund was not reimbursed for the garbage assessment fund.

Howard Partridge asked about the first garbage assessment.

Brian Garner explained the provisions to go through if an increase is over 10 percent and about it going to a vote by the people.

Howard Partridge/Brian Garner talked about the first special assessment.

Howard Partridge said the people put the special assessment on the ballot.

Brian Garner said if people wanted it on the ballot, it should have been done by the first special assessment hearing.

Howard Partridge said there is a process to follow.

Rhonda Schultz said people voted on the first garbage assessment.

Bob Reil said it has been a long time since that assessment.

Howard Partridge said there should be minutes talking about the assessment.

Ben Partridge asked about the 10 percent increase, if it was per year.

Brian Garner said it could be per year.

Ben Partridge said the Board knew about raises for years.

Bob Reil asked about the assessment: "This is not on vacant land is it?"

Supervisor Forbes said it is just on homes.

Bob Reil remembered picking stuff out of ditches. With the tire pickups, garbage pickup has been a tremendous plus.

Supervisor Forbes was surprised with the stuff picked up with the 40-yard dumpsters.

Bob Reil said before we had to take it to the dump and still had to pay. If raised 9 percent each year it would be raised to 27 percent in three years.

Jerry Dutcher said most townships pay more and this is a no brainer.

Supervisor Forbes said in Juniata they have several garbage pickup services that individuals have to set up individually due to no township-wide service.

Ben Partridge asked would they have had to raise it 9.9 percent a year?

Brian Garner said they would not have had to.

Howard Partridge asked the supervisor if he got quotes from other garbage companies.

Supervisor Forbes said he checked with other companies but they would not give written bids.

Howard Partridge said the reason they could raise the assessment 9.9 percent is because of the contract.

Brian Garner said, "No, it is state law."

Howard Partridge asked could we renegotiate by removing 3 percent for recycling?

Supervisor Forbes said, "No, we can not do it like that."

Howard Partridge said people do not like paying for recycling.

Don Clinesmith said Fremont Township does not have garbage pickup and does not want to know about the garbage or where it goes. Some individuals pay \$185.00 a year to have their garbage picked up.

Bob Reil said before he was spending good money on garbage cans.

Don Clinesmith said he left a toilet by the road and the garbage company picked it up.

Public Hearing closed at 7:36pm.

Garbage Assessment Resolution 21-2014 offered by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes:

Now, Therefore, be it resolved:

1. The Township Board hereby confirms the special assessment roll as presented for the first year for the purposes of providing garbage collection with the following correction, in that, the amount to be assessed to all parcels in the special assessment district is modified from \$123.84 to \$126.00.
2. The (6) annual assessments shall be distributed and shall become due and be collected at the same time as other township taxes are assessed, levied, and collected, and shall be turned over in the same manner for non-payment.
3. Annually hereafter in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, the Township Board shall re-determine the amount to be levied for garbage collection at its annual Budget Public Hearing each year without further mailed notice. However, if the amount to be specially assessed increases by more than Ten Percent (10%) in any one year, then mailed notice of public hearing will be provided to owners of property to be specially assessed. The assessment may be made either in a special assessment roll or a column in the regular tax roll.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Roll Call: Gray – Yes, Clinesmith – Yes, Stack – Absent, Forbes – Yes, Tester – Yes
Vote 4-0, with 1 absent. RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Ben Partridge had a question about the website. He stated the Township web site does not say who is working when. He added that there is no general mailbox on the answering machine and he wanted that addressed.

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester to adjourn.

Vote 4-0, with 1 absent. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor