

VICTOR TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES- SPECIAL MEETING
February 26, 2008 (Tentative)

Call to Order and Pledge

The special meeting of the Victor Township Board was held at the Township Hall, 6843 Alward Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848. Supervisor Warren Malkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge to the flag was given.

Roll Call of Members

Members present: Warren Malkin, Michelle Wilsey, Donald McDonald, Dan Morris, Duane Ginther

Members absent: None. Other governmental representatives in attendance: None. Four (4) citizens present.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Malkin opened the Public Hearing on the FY 2008-09 Budget at 7:02 p.m. The public hearing was the only item on the agenda. He presented the proposed budget for comment and discussion. He noted that the only change from the previous version was an increase in fire expense, reflecting an early payoff of Victor Township's fire engine (currently scheduled for payoff in 2011).

Public Comment

Kirk Easterbrook asked if the deficit from the previous year fire budget (partial refund of FEMA grant) was covered in this year's budget. Malkin responded that it was, subject to the other joint entities approval. However, another FEMA grant was pending that, if approved, would allow the money to be used productively rather than just refunded.

Morris asked what the basis was for the increase to the trustee salary. Malkin noted it was approximately 3% increase. Morris noted that there was no increase in the per meeting compensation. He asked the board to consider increasing the trustee's per meeting compensation from \$45 for a partial day/\$55 for a full day to \$55 for a partial day to \$65 for a full day. Wilsey asked if he was proposing an increase in the budget for meetings or just a change in the rate. Morris responded that he was only recommending a change in the rate. The FY 08-09 salary resolutions were passed at the February 5, 2008 meeting. A change in the rate could be taken under consideration at a future meeting.

McDonald noted that a proposal to increase the mileage rate should also be considered.

Bruce Gillespie asked what the rate of increase was for the supervisor salary. Malkin responded that it was approximately 17%. Gillespie noted that this seemed high for a one year change. Malkin responded that it was raised to bring it on par with the other officers' salaries. The treasurer and clerk salaries had been increased with changes in duties in previous years but the supervisor's had not increased substantially.

Hewitt Vail raised the issue of State Equalized Value (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV). There was an extensive discussion of the methodology that Clinton County uses to determine the percentage change in SEV and if the numbers for Victor and other areas are reasonable. Vail also asked about the Headlee cap, how it worked and when it was initiated. Malkin explained the history and the relationship between SEV and TV. Wilsey noted that the percentage increase for agricultural land in Victor of 28.9% was double that of last year and was the highest in Clinton County. When asked for the data to support such a change, the county equalization department provided sales data. Wilsey noted that, of the data provided, there were only 6 sales in Victor and 3 of them were actually splits of a single sale. While there are apparently a number of other factors that are considered in the study, the methodology used for the study seemed flawed.

Gillespie asked about fire run reimbursements. He wondered what fire runs are reimbursable. Malkin responded that if the fire truck responds to an incident then a fire run charge applies unless it is a false alarm that does not involve an illegal burn. The difference in fire run reimbursement revenues from last year to this year is due to the increase in fire charges adopted across the fire authority.

McDonald asked about road contracts. Malkin noted that the current budget provides for basic maintenance only (brush mowing and dust control).

Wilsey noted the treasurer phone charge expense line item should be eliminated as this is already included in the expense line item. The treasurer concurred and the item was struck.

Easterbrook asked if Victor would have to pick up costs for other jurisdictions if they pulled out of CAF&R. Malkin responded no because the joint participants are required to pay off existing obligations under the agreement and provide 1 year notice of withdrawal.

Motion by McDonald, second by Wilsey, to adopt a resolution enacting the Victor Township General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and corresponding budget with total revenues of \$584,320 and

total expenses of \$510,205.63. Upon a roll call vote the following voted yes: Malkin, McDonald, Ginther, Wilsey, Morris. The following voted no: none. The following were absent: none. The motion carried and the resolution adopted. Copies of the complete resolution and budget are available in the office of the Clerk. McDonald moved, second by Malkin and motion carried to designate the anticipated \$74,114.37 in unspent funds from this year's budget to future road projects.

McDonald noted that he planned to place cash in the bank account in a 6 month interest bearing CD, and requested input on expected major expenses in order to reserve a sufficient amount for cash flow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Michelle Wilsey, Clerk