

St. Clair Township Road District Budget Hearing

DATE: April 28, 2014
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

CALL TO ORDER

The budget hearing for St. Clair Township Road District was called to order by Supervisor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Dave Barnes, Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Greg Hipkind and Keith Sturgis
Absent: none

Other Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: Dean Wallen Vladimir Halupa
Steve Duff D H
Guy DonCarlos Terry Carroll

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Duff pointed out the amount listed in the budget for capital disbursements was \$54,000 more than the total of the list of project estimate amounts provided with the tentative budget posted for the March 25 hearing. Road Commissioner Kernan said the excess would be used on the Chenot Place repair. Mr. Duff asked for explanation on a project estimate for Sierra Drive that was not included in the budget posted on the website. Mr. Kernan scolded Mr. Duff for not calling him before the meeting to get answers to his questions. Mr. Kernan announced he would be available during normal business hours to answer any questions and thanked Mr. Duff for his comments.

Guy DonCarlos expressed frustration with the road budget being continually updated and the public not having the most current information on which to base questions. He was concerned whether the board had sufficient time to review the most current budget.

DISCUSSION OF ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Trustee Sturgis commented he reviewed the budget over the weekend then received a revision this morning. He questioned how anyone could ask questions before the meeting with information changing.

There was much discussion about the Chenot Place repair project.

There was question from which fund tax dollars are refunded to Swansea, Fairview Heights, and Shiloh but no one had a definitive answer.

Trustee Sturgis questioned why not abate the permanent road fund tax when there is an expectation of an end of year balance of \$350,000 after budgeted projects are complete. Road Commissioner Kernan stated that for a 20 year period in the township's history it was common practice to have \$1,000,000 in the fund at end of year. He feels it is prudent to keep a balance in that fund to be prepared in case emergency repairs are needed.

Trustee Carroll asked Mr. Kernan if he would be hiring anyone. He said, "Not at this time." She asked again. He said, "No," but added he would be hiring a couple college students as part-time summer help.

A motion to approve St. Clair Road District Ordinance No. 2014-R2 was made by Trustee Hipkind, seconded by Trustee Wells.

A point of order was raised by Guy DonCarlos. He pointed out the agenda indicated discussion and vote on Ordinance No 2014-R1 therefore a vote could not be taken on Ordinance No. 2014-R2.

Supervisor Barnes called for a short recess to investigate.

Supervisor Barnes found in *Laws and Duties Handbook* from Township Officials of Illinois that while the agenda is to be as complete as possible and the board may not act on an item not on the agenda, the fourth district appellate court found in *Rice v. Adams County, Illinois*, 326 Ill.App.3d 1120, that a governmental body is permitted to consider any specific matter which is closely related to a general topic listed on an agenda or notice.

Supervisor Barnes called for a vote to approve St. Clair Road District Ordinance No. 2014-R2. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Carroll, Sturgis. Motion passed.

Trustee Hipkind made a motion to adjourn the road budget hearing, Trustee Sturgis seconded. Voice vote. All in favor.

The hearing adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: with amendment June 24, 2014