

**Budget Hearings**  
**St. Clair Township and St. Clair Road District**

DATE: April 6, 2015  
TIME: 6:15 p.m.  
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg.  
107 Service Street  
Swansea, IL

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Supervisor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: Dean Wallen                      George Peterson  
Sue DonCarlos                      Guy DonCarlos  
Steve Duff                      Terry Carroll  
Cletis Cox                      C Hasett  
Wanda Thompson                      F Boch  
R.M. Goins                      Tim Buchanan  
Mike Cannon                      Lillian S. Gee  
Dorothy Howard                      William H Bremen, Sr.  
Jill Halupa                      Vladimir Halupa

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Barnes asked for public comments and reminded those attending to direct comments to him and that there would be a time limit of three minutes for each speaker.

Guy DonCarlos asked what happens to amounts budgeted but not used from the previous year's budget. Supervisor Barnes said amounts not spent in the fiscal year are carried over to the next year. Mr. DonCarlos pointed out about \$1.4 million was budgeted but not used in the 2014/2015 township budget.

Tim Buchanan asked the road commissioner to not hire an additional employee and to abate the permanent road tax. Mr. Buchanan handed information to explain his position to the board and to others attending the meeting. Dorothy Howard, William Bremen, Robert Goins, and Matthew Groves ceded their three minutes of time to Mr. Buchanan as he explained why he was opposed to hiring another road district employee and why the permanent road tax should be abated. Mr. Buchanan also gave petitions with 121 signatures indicating support of abating the permanent road tax to Road Commissioner Kernan.

Tim Roesch commented if there is \$1.4 million in the bank why not reduce the tax to less than \$850,000.

Steve Duff expressed his frustration with the apparent lack of a definitive plan for completing projects that are included in the budget each year. He said it is unfair to the taxpayers to budget for more than can be completed in a budget cycle.

Michael Cannon asked if the \$90,000 budgeted to hire another person was the amount of the total compensation or just the salary. He commented hiring a 5<sup>th</sup> person may not be prudent considering state budget issues.

“BB” asked about the qualifications necessary for the new road district employee.

Jill Halupa said the tax Mr. Buchanan wants to abate only amounted to a \$9.00 increase in her tax bill. She expressed frustration with focusing on such a small line item.

#### DISCUSS TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Trustee Wells stated the Park Board is happy with what is budgeted for parks. Trustee Hipskind asked about the \$700,000 being increased to \$1.4 million. He questioned why the increase and where is the increase coming from. Supervisor Barnes said the Miscellaneous Adjustments is the line item Trustee Hipskind is talking about. Supervisor Barnes said at the last board meeting it was brought up the amount should be \$1.2 million or \$1.4 million. He increased the amount on the 2015/2016 budget so it would be available in the coming fiscal year. Trustee Carroll said she thinks the General Assistance Fund is too high. Supervisor Barnes said he increased it because of the amount the fund was over budget in 2014/2015.

#### VOTE ON ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP BUDGET ORDINANCE 2015-T1

Trustee Hipskind made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2015-T1, Budget & Appropriation Ordinance, St. Clair Township. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

DISCUSS ST CLAIR ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Road Commissioner Kernan explained if he abated the permanent road tax he would not be eligible for disaster relief from the state should a disaster occur. Trustee Hipskind stated he supported the road district hiring another employee. Trustee Wells suggested road department employees be crossed trained so..... Trustee Sturgis commented township roads in his neighborhood have been maintained in the same condition for the last 20 years. Trustee Sturgis stated he did not think hiring another employee would make road conditions better in the township and he was concerned with not knowing the complete costs of hiring another employee.

VOTE ON ST CLAIR ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET ORDINANCE 2015-R1

Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve St. Clair Road District Ordinance No. 2015-R1 with a change to the Permanent Road Fund Budget, Total Personnel line amount of \$406,050 by lowering it to \$352,050. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Wells, Hipskind. Motion passed.

Line items within Personnel to be reduced are:

06-00-421 Wages \$330,000 reduced to \$285,000

06-00-461 SS & Medicare - \$25,000 reduced to \$23,000

06-00-463 IMRF \$48,000 reduced to \$41,000

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:46 p.m. Trustee Hipskind made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed  
St. Clair Township Clerk