

April 4, 2011

A budget hearing meeting was called to order by Supervisor Lesandrini on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. All board members were present. There were 14 public attendees.

Kenney stated that he had met with board members Lesandrini and Dalpra the first part of the month to sketch some numbers together. Also, along with that meeting, stated Kenney the board had a budget workshop meeting held on March 14, 2011. After further discussion, a motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to approve the budget for 2011-2012 as submitted. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to adjourn the budget hearing meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The State of the Township meeting was called to order on March 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. All board members were present.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to approve the agenda. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

MEETING RESOLUTION:

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to approve the meeting date as the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m.. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

DEPOSITORY RESOLUTION AND INVESTMENT POLICY 2011-2012:

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Aho to approve the Investment and Depository Resolution designating the following financial institutions as depositories of the Township's funds: Wells Fargo Bank, Crystal Falls, Michigan; CoVantage Credit Union, Crystal Falls, Michigan; First National Bank of Crystal Falls, Crystal Falls, Michigan; Edward Jones Investments, Crystal Falls, Michigan. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to approve the budget amendments for 2010-2011. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2011-2012 BUDGET:

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to approve the budget for 2011-2012. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP:

FINANCE:

Scott Kenney provided the board and public with a brief synopsis of the finances of the Township. Kenney said, "the Township had a high fund balance in 2008 that has gradually been decreasing as the Board sets aside money in its capital improvement fund. The Board also is not levying as much in property taxes. Some of the goals that were set last year by the board included decreasing property taxes by one and one-half mills, drawing down on the fund balance and curtailing general fund spending." "In the fire fund," said Kenney, "the township had been spending almost \$150,000.00, but is now paying about half that much for fire protection services." "The major expenses are payroll and benefits, normal operating expenses and ongoing legacy costs," said Kenney noting at the end of April another full-time driver will be laid off, leaving an all-volunteer department with one full-time driver. "In looking ahead," said Kenney, "the Township will have to review water rates to keep the fund self-sustaining and to be able to afford future water systems improvements."

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Robb Anderson of GEI provided the board and public with a quick slide show of the "old and new" construction on the Gibson Lake Park. "90% of the work is completed" said Anderson. "the old structures were deteriorating and outdated, so with a DNR Trust Fund grant and in-kind services, the Township was able to replace the pavilion, changing houses, restrooms, fishing pier and boat launch." "A multi-structure playground equipment, four rustic camping sites with grills and picnic tables at each campsite, basketball courts, new sidewalks and paths have also been added" said Anderson. "Lesandrini," said Anderson, "is planning an open house in June." It's all

handicapped accessible stated Lesandrini. “ The biggest thing I worry about is vandalism. We will be putting up surveillance cameras and we will be charging for the campsites, which will be comparable to WE Energies camp ground. It will be on a first come, first serve basis and we will not be taking reservations for the pavilion.” said Lesandrini. Lesandrini stated that the Township also owns 80 acres on the Paint River and may also look into putting in walking paths and a fishing spot. “We have also had some discussions on the Crystella ski hill and will look into volunteers to help fix it up” said Lesandrini.

ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT:

Lesandrini said “the township purchased an old farm adjacent to the existing Industrial Park. The Township currently has just under 100 acres there, which we added 80 acres last year. We are presently in the process of developing a plan along with GEI and ourselves.” “ We have had some interest from developers to come in .We will be working on plans this year on what we will be charging on those properties for them to come in. We have already been in contact with the railroad.” “ They are interested in bringing in a spur, which will run completely through the property”. “This will help Connors, said Lesandrini “ to develop what they have going on along with other business in the area. We have property at our backdoor over by Maple Ridge. I have had 2 businesses contact me regarding this property, looking into new businesses in this community.”

SANITATION AND RECYCLING:

Lesandrini said, “The Township will continue to collect garbage Monday and Tuesday. The recycling will continue the first Wednesday of every month. Along with that will be Spring and Fall clean-up weekends and we will continue with the operation of the organic waste site.”

ELECTIONS:

Lesandrini said “The School Board members and School mileage election will be held on May 3, 2011. The Township is possibly looking at August or November for our mileage election.”

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Lesandrini said “ Cary Gustafson was hired as the new Zoning Administrator. Cary has a lot of great qualification, which will help him tremendously in this position. The Master Plan has been completed, which will be good for the next five years”. Lesandrini said “ Our Wellhead ordinance has also been completed. A few meetings back the Township was awarded American Water Works Association Michigan Section Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award for a small system. That work was completed by GEI and our Wellhead Board with Diane Kut as the Chairperson. That award put us in the Federal Award system. Two weeks ago, I received a letter from the committee stating that Crystal Falls Township was accepted in the Michigan Section American Water Works Association Federal Award Program, which will be accepted in Washington D.C. this summer. This small community has won 2 awards. One in Michigan and one through- out the whole Federal Government . Mr. Tinti along with Robb Anderson from GEI worked together to get us to this point. Terry Alexa has also been on top of all the paper work sent to Mr. Rice. So I want to take this opportunity to thank Robb Anderson and Jeff Bal from GEI, Steve Tinti, Diane Kut along with all the Wellhead team and also this board for identifying and seeing that it was important to budget those monies and educate people.”

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Aho and Lesandrini met with the Fire Department volunteers on March 23. Aho stated that the volunteers are already planning on doing fund-raisers for the summer. “They raised a lot of money for the equipment,” said Lesandrini, “around \$70,000.00.” “They probably own about 70% of the equipment.” said Lesandrini. “ One of the fund raisers will be calendars” said Lesandrini.

TAXATION:

Dalpra noted that the final tax collection that was turned over to the County Treasurer was \$101,431.00 and delinquent taxes were at \$45,000.00. Dalpra noted that there was a huge increase in last minute payments. Lesandrini stated that the assessed value of the Township is \$130,886,000.00 and taxable value is \$91,990,000.00. This is a very large township and we are growing significantly, stated Lesandrini.

WATER AND SEWER:

Lesandrini stated that we do have a sewer planning grant that GEI is working on. We have some issues with one of our lines that was installed in 1958, which will be looked into. There is about \$20,000.00-\$30,000.00 worth of projects for the summer that we will be looking at. Lesandrini stated that chlorinating will be done this Spring, but there will be some cut backs. There is still a full gravel pit at Peterson pit, stated Lesandrini. Roads that will be completed are Idlewild in 2013, and 2014 will be Lind Road.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk