

WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN BOARD

Regular Meeting & Public Hearings

November 12, 2008

Present: Supervisor Champlin, Councilmen Hagen, Rehberg, Miller, Ferguson
Also Present: Town Clerk Mary Grundman, Highway Superintendent Jim Powers, Laurel Wemett, Carl Prouty, Gerry & Peter Shea, Kathy White, Dale Twardokus, Rick Hannan, Zack Smith, Karl Hritz, Bob Bassett, Corey and Teresa Keyes, Anna and Andy Boonstra

Supervisor Champlin opened the meeting at 7:30 and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION #114

Public Hearings for Ionia and West Bloomfield Fire Department Contracts

Supervisor Champlin opened the public hearing for the fire department contracts and asked three times if anyone had any comments. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:33. Councilman Miller made the motion to adopt the contracts, seconded by Councilman Ferguson.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Rehberg, Miller, Hagen, Ferguson Nays - None

Resolves that the 2009 Ionia and West Bloomfield Fire Department Contracts are adopted.

RESOLUTION #115

Public Hearings for Honeoye Falls Fire Department and Ambulance Contracts

Supervisor Champlin opened the Public hearing for the Honeoye Falls Fire and Ambulance Contracts, he asked three times if anyone had comments, hearing none, the public hearing was closed at 7:35. Councilman Rehberg made the motion to adopt the contracts, seconded by Councilman Hagen.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Rehberg, Miller, Hagen, Ferguson Nays - None

Resolves that the 2009 Honeoye Falls Fire Department and Ambulance Contracts are adopted.

Public Hearings for 2009 Budget

Supervisor Champlin opened the public hearing for the 2009 Budget and asked if anyone had any comments.

Peter Shea asked for an explanation of the Budget process. Supervisor Champlin and Highway Superintendent Powers explained.

Corey Keyes asked with the economy the way it is do we have to do everything? Supervisor Champlin explained that the percentage of increase is not a percentage of taxes but a percentage of the tax rate, and the cuts that have already been made.

Teresa Keyes stated that since the Budget process began in August, the economy has gotten worse and the tax increase is too much. The Board needs to hear people out before making the decision on the budget. Supervisor Champlin explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear residents thoughts and the Board would listen to everyone.

Karl Hritz asked if the budget had to be approved tonight? Supervisor Champlin said the deadline is the 15th. Mr. Hritz asked why the increase for wages was 3% and why since this is a down year and we are losing sales tax and income, public servants should lose too. He also asked if the Board had allowed for the gas prices. Supervisor Champlin stated that the 3% increase is standard and that other towns give 4 or 5 % and the sales tax is the same as last year and that the current budget has a three % increase and sales tax is up 15%. Mr. Hritz said it won't continue and businesses are already leaving. Councilman Rehberg explained the 3% is not for the Board and asked if Mr. Hritz was saying none of the Town employees should get an increase. Mr. Hritz said the general public isn't getting a raise but the Town workers are that

isn't fair the community is in a down cycle, and these people are part of the community, wait till times are better. Supervisor Champlin corrected the date for the adoption of the budget is November 20th. Andy Boonstra said the private industry isn't giving raises. Anna Boonstra asked about the 47% increase. Supervisor Champlin explained the difference between tax rate and tax bills. Councilman Hagen explained the budget revision process and the changes and deletions that were made. He explained the increases in salt and fuel and big ticket items are the worst. He also explained that the Supervisor had figures from 1994 that show if the Town had not eliminated town taxes entirely back then, at a steady 3% increase the tax rate would be the same as the one being proposed. He explained that the County is predicting an increase in sales tax, the 2009 town budget is using a decrease. The town does not want to have to borrow money to get by, so the budget reflects that. He also explained that the budget changes already explained only changed the tax rate by 5 or 10 cents. Supervisor Champlin explained the cuts made may come back to haunt us as it is and added that there is no reserve fund to fall back on and what else could be cut? Mr. Keyes said 5 or 10 cents would be good. Mr. Shea asked if extra gas could be cut? Superintendent Powers said it already is. Mrs. Keyes asked about the clerk being increased from 30 to 40 hours per week, would that person get benefits? Councilman Hagen explained some of the items that might be cut such as the Summer Recreation Program, the Garden Club, the WOLCDC, and building repairs and that the clerk is already working the hours, but not being paid. Superintendent Powers added that cuts could be made by not mowing parks and only salting the intersections in town. Maybe give up flags and donations to senior citizens. Is that what people want? Councilman Hagen explained there isn't any commercial development people don't want it here, so we pay the price. And we are still lower than other towns and cutting more would save pennies. Mr. Keyes thanked the Board. Supervisor Champlin said he would like to keep the rate where it is in case next year is worse, and that if anyone wants to add anything, the Board doesn't have to vote till the 19th. Mr. Keyes asked if the budget could be put on the web site. Supervisor Champlin said it might be possible. Paper copies were distributed to residents that asked for them. Supervisor Champlin asked if there were any more questions, hearing none, the Public Hearing on the 2009 Budget was closed at 8:20.

Supervisor Champlin opened the regular meeting.

RESOLUTION #116

Minutes

Supervisor Champlin asked for the approval of the October minutes. Councilman Rehberg made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Miller.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Ferguson, Rehberg, Miller, Hagen Nays - None

Resolves that the October minutes are accepted as presented.

RESOLUTION #117

Supervisor's Report

The Supervisor's report for October was read and discussed. Councilman Rehberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Hagen.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Rehberg, Miller, Hagen, Ferguson Nays - None

Resolves that the Supervisor's Report is accepted as presented.

RESOLUTION #118

Highway & Water Reports

Highway Superintendent Powers gave the Highway and Water reports for October. Councilman Hagen made the motion to accept the reports, seconded by Councilman Rehberg.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Rehberg, Ferguson, Miller, Hagen Nays - None

Resolves that the Highway and Water Reports are accepted as presented.

RESOLUTION #119

Justice Reports

The Justice reports were read and discussed. Councilman Rehberg made the motion to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Hagen.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Ferguson, Rehberg, Miller, Hagen Nays - None

Resolves that Justice reports are accepted as presented.

RESOLUTION #120

Approval of Bills

Abstracts in the amounts of:	General	Vouchers	356-391	\$29510.24
	Highway	Vouchers	133-148	\$68160.65
	Water	Vouchers	68-81	\$15125.24

Were audited. Councilman Miller made the motion to approve payment, seconded by Councilman Rehberg.

Adopted: Ayes – Champlin, Rehberg, Miller, Hagen, Ferguson Nays - None

Resolves that the payment of bills is approved.

Old Business:

Supervisor Champlin gave the Board a copy of the Treasurers Report from the Senior Citizens.

Factors Walk Road dedication was discussed. Supervisor Champlin explained that the Board could not take dedication tonight, because the approvals they need are not in but could be done by the 19th. Mr. Hannan disagreed with Supervisor Champlin about the requirements, Supervisor Champlin explained that Attorney Anderson was specific as to the requirements and he would not accept with out Attorney Andersons approval. Mr. Shea asked if the road meets the standard why are there other aspects? Services are being paid for but not received. Supervisor Champlin explained that when all the standards are met the Board can take dedication. Mr. Shea said to his knowledge, the standards are met so why isn't the road dedicated? Supervisor Champlin said the Town could not accept the road for dedication without the Attorneys approval. Mr. Shea asked if it snows next week will the road get plowed? Supervisor Champlin said no. Mr. Shea asked if the offer that was made to the previous owner could be done again. Supervisor Champlin said no offer has been made with the current developer. Mr. Shea asked why there isn't another agreement. Supervisor Champlin asked if he wants the Board to come up with another agreement. Mr. Shea reiterated what Supervisor Champlin said was correct. Supervisor Champlin repeated that if everything is done by the 19th, the Town can take dedication. Councilman Hagen clarified we are waiting for the Attorney. Supervisor Champlin agreed and explained it's in the hands of the Attorney. Mr. Hannan said it's done. Superintendent Powers said the inspection was done. Mr. Shea asked if there was a date for it being done. Supervisor Champlin said no. Mr. Hannan asked about a release from the original letter of credit. Supervisor Champlin said he did not have the paperwork.

Councilman Rehberg asked if Councilman Miller had reports from the Recreation Program. Councilman Miller said they are meeting in February.

At 8:57 Councilman Hagen made the motion to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation.

At 9:15 Councilman Hagen made the motion to return to the regular meeting. Councilman Ferguson made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Rehberg.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Grundman
Town Clerk