

GRAFTON TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 2011

7:30PM

HUNTLEY PARK DISTRICT

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Roll call – Present – Trustees LaPorta, Zirk, Murphy, Mc Mahon, Supervisor Moore, Assessor Ottley and Road Commissioner Freund, Deputy Clerk Sandy Holden. 3 guests and a videographer.

Supervisor Moore asked Trustee Zirk to propose her levy amounts for the board to discuss.

Trustee Zirk said that it is hard to propose a levy since there have not been any audits in the last 2 years so they are not sure where the township stands with \$ funds. Proposing a 2.08% increase per county stipulation which would total a \$21,938 increase for 2012 for a total of \$1,076,637. With a 1.51% increase we would have a levy request of \$1,070,637.

Trustee LaPorta was asked to Supervisor Moore to give his comments on the proposed figures by Trustee Zirk. He proceeded to ask Road Commissioner Freund to discuss and explain his budget but Supervisor Moore prohibited him from asking questions and said that Commissioners Freund's turn would be later. When Supervisor Moore prohibited his questions, he said that the Township needs to request the maximum allowed as we will not receive that amount anyway.

Trustee LaPorta made a motion to censure Supervisor Moore due to her not allowing questions/discussions regarding the levy proposals

Trustee Murphy was asked by Supervisor Moore for her comments and she also said that to insure the Township receive the proposed \$1,060,000., they must ask for everything that is available.

Trustee McMahan was asked by Supervisor Moore for his comments and he declined.

Supervisor Moore said everyone was out of order as they are not allowed to ask questions of anyone – that is her job.

Trustee Murphy asked Assessor Ottley who sets the levy amounts – he said the County sets them, not the Township. The Township makes requests.

Trustee LaPorta again motioned to censor Supervisor Moore and was seconded by Trustee Murphy – Supervisor Moore ignored the motions.

Trustee Murphy again commented that if the Township did not ask to levy enough, they will not receive the maximum funds available to Grafton Township.

Trustee LaPorta again tried to ask Road Commissioner Freund questions and again was stopped by Supervisor Moore.

Commissioner Freund is requesting \$769,187 – an increase of \$36,558 over last year's levy/ extension received.

Supervisor Moore asked for a dollar amount increase of Commissioner Freund and he said an increase of \$15,938 levy.

Trustee Zirk said that money/surplus in the General Assistance Fund is large enough and proposed a smaller levy as there is over \$100,000. in this fund. The Trustees said that if additional funds are needed in the General Assistance Fund that the dollars can be transferred at a later date.

Supervisor Moore said that being in the General Assistance Fund does not prevent it from being spent, that we need a cushion for medical, liability and insurance expenses. Supervisor Moore said that she is being fiscally responsible with this fund.

Motion by Trustee LaPorta, seconded by Trustee Zirk, to allocate \$1,033,637.00 for the Town Fund; to allocate \$20,000 in the General Assistance Fund; to allocate \$17,000 for the Insurance Fund for a total of \$1,070,637.00 which is a 1.51% increase.

Supervisor Moore said that she does not agree and there should be a discussion as she does not agree that the General Funds should be decreased as they were already cut in half.

Supervisor Moore said that tax payers cannot afford any increases and she objects to asking for any additional levies. The definition of a levy is a tax increase.

MOTION PASSED with Aye votes from Trustees LaPorta, Zirk, Murphy and McMahan. Nay -Supervisor Moore.

Assessor Ottley said that our growth is around \$7.5 million, which is significant in this economy. He also mentioned that this is a large growth for his years in his position. Supervisor Moore asked how long he has been in his position – he said 20 years. Most of the increase is due to the projects in Talamore.

Road Commissioner Freund asked for a levy totaling \$769,187 comprised of \$249,944 road tax, \$21,840 Insurance fund tax, Ill Municipal Retirement Tax of \$15,505 and permanent road tax of \$481,898.

Road Commissioner Freund explained that Road tax monies come from the tax charged at the fuel pumps and is set by the county/state. If the Township does not ask for the funds, they do not receive them and we lose out. If we do not ask for the maximum and loose the road taxes again this year, we will lose them permanently.

Trustee LaPorta reiterated what Road Commissioner Freund stated previously and again stated the Township does not set the fuel tax, they ask for our portion of those funds.

Motion by Trustee Zirk, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to accept the Road Tax levy totaling \$769,187.00 comprised of \$249,944 .00 Road Tax, \$21,840 Insurance Fund tax, Ill Municipal Retirement Tax of \$15,505 and Permanent Road Tax of \$481,898, which is an increase of 4.99%.

MOTION PASSED with Aye votes from Trustees LaPorta, Zirk, Murphy and McMahan. Nay- Supervisor Moore.

Supervisor Moore said that we have the second highest cost per mile in the state and offer fewer services (Algonquin/LITH offer senior transportation and recycling) than Algonquin has lowered their levy; Lake in the Hills has proposed lowering their levy. Huntley has put a freeze on their levy. No tax increases. She also mentioned that the Township cannot keep taxing the people and that government needs to be more fiscally responsible.

The Trustees tried to explain that the Township does not set the fuel taxes and this is not a tax increase, but a request for funds that are due the Township from the fuel taxes collected.

Trustee Murphy said that we cannot be compared with Algonquin and Lake in the Hills, as they are villages and we are a Township.

Motion was made by Trustee Barb Murphy, seconded by Trustee Betty Zirk to adjourn the special meeting at 7:58 pm. Motion Passed

Submitted by Sandy Holden, Deputy Clerk