

**GRAFTON TOWNSHIP BUDGET HEARING  
GRAFTON TOWNSHIP, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
Monday March 16, 2015**

**1. Supervisor Kearns called the meeting to order at 7:14 P.M.**

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Trustees Wagner, Ziller and Zirk; Supervisor Kearns; Road Commissioner Poznanski; Assessor Zielinski; Clerk Hurley. Absent: Trustee Holtorf

**3. Pledge of Allegiance was not said.**

**4. Public Comment/Board Response to Township Budget**

None.

**5. Discussion and adoption of the 2015-16 Grafton Township Budget, Budget and Appropriation ordinance 03162015-1**

Supervisor Kearns said that Assessor Zielinski asked for \$237,000 for salaries. Supervisor Kearns said that he looked up the current rate and it is \$244,000 not including bonuses etc. He said that the employees are now salaried and they receive benefits. However, recently the Assessor decided to change the employees to hourly but they will not be eligible for overtime. There was a lot of discussion about a new salary schedule in place in which employees are paid commensurate with the certifications they hold. In one case, an employee's salary will be cut \$6,000. Assessor Zielinski explained that the salary would be cut initially but that the employee would complete a specific training and his salary would go back up. He said that if you look at hourly wages, he is in the same place due to additional hours he put in previously. Supervisor Kearns questioned the fairness of the salaries and said there is one person on staff that was hired very recently who receives 5 weeks of vacation. Further explanation about the salary schedule was provided. The top training designation is "Level M" and comes with a \$68,000 salary. Supervisor Kearns pointed out that McHenry County only requires a CIAO Basic certification level. Supervisor Kearns emphatically stated that salaries will not go beyond CPI next year. He said that the budget amount is where the salaries are right now.

There was a discussion about assessment appeals and the rate of denial. It was stated by Supervisor Kearns that Grafton Township lost \$12 million in assessments due to assessment appeals.

Supervisor Kearns said that he provided budget for the current salary level and that he is concerned that employees getting more certifications would get salary increases beyond what the budget will allow. Assessor Zielinski said there are only two specific employees that will be eligible for a raise based on the salary schedule being tied to certifications for the next three years. He said that he had a meeting with all of his staff and they agreed to pool their training budget to give to one of the other employees. It was further pointed out by a trustee that two other employees have been given a cut in salary. Assessor Zielinski said he asked his employees about it and they are okay with the cuts. Trustee Wagner asked Assessor Zielinski if he will go on record saying that his staff that got salary cuts said it was okay with them.

Supervisor Kearns pointedly asked if Assessor Zielinski is willing to keep salaries where they are right now with no raises on certifications, no overtime, no bonuses.

Motion by Supervisor Kearns, second by Trustee Wagner to table budget approval until the next regular meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Assessor Zielinski said that he could move \$1,650 from another line item intended for a screen for the wall map to salaries.

Trustee Wagner withdrew his second and the motion failed.

Supervisor Kearns emphatically stated that next year he will not vote for a salary

budget higher than the 2015/2016 salary line item plus CPI. He repeated it and asked it go on record. Trustee Zirk stated that she was against the increase in salaries due to the high increase in the cost of health insurance, which went up 13 ½ %. She said that she feels that's their raise.

Motion by Trustee Ziller to approve the Township budget Ordinance 03162015-1 as written. Second by Trustee Wagner.

Ayes: Trustees Ziller, Wagner, Supervisor Kearns

Nays: Trustee Zirk. Motion Carries.

**6. Adjournment of Public Hearing**

Motion by Trustee Wagner, second by Trustee Ziller to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Ayes: Trustees Wagner, Ziller, Zirk, Supervisor Kearns

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted,  
Township Clerk Kathryn Hurley

Exhibit I

**GRAFTON TOWNSHIP  
BUDGET HEARINGS  
PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS BOARD**

**Date: March 16, 2015**

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