

Annual Meeting of the Electors

APPROVED

Minutes of Burt Township
March 31, 2007 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Supervisor, Jack Hubbard called the Annual Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Electors: 22

Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting and 3 Special Meetings of the Electors: Motion by Chuck Whittenberg, second by Sheri Shafer to approve all 4 sets of minutes – motion carried.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Hubbard presented his report of the past fiscal year as follows:

- ✚ The Payroll Taxes are up to date –we are working with the IRS for abatement of some of the penalties and interest
- ✚ We are working with State agencies to combine/modify the grants
- ✚ Our Insurance company has reviewed bonds and coverage to ensure adequate and appropriate coverage
- ✚ The Board members are striving to ensure compliance with requirements of their positions, supporting each others responsibilities, and encouraging community involvement including support of the businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals.
- ✚ Budgets have been developed with a goal of fiscal recovery and growth for the future. See Budgets below.
- ✚ The new well is completed.
- ✚ We are trying to ensure resource management with the wellhead protection program and timber management. We have a completed timber management plan and plan to log some of the townships 400+ acres and increase general fund revenues.
- ✚ Reassessment is progressing with the first assessment notices out with the appropriate equalization factors. The entire process will not be completed until April 2008 but will ultimately increase our assessed values in the township and increase State revenue sharing.
- ✚ The future of the Harbor and restoration of the breakwall is looking brighter with the hiring of Earthscape Resource Management to lobby Federal and State interests.

Budgets for 2007/2008

- ✚ First, we have to remember that Tax Revenues included in the budgets are not available until December 2007 through February 2008. Most projects must be accomplished in the summer.
- ✚ All expenditures must be based on funds available now. Our grants must be reviewed to ensure we can meet the matching fund requirements this year. We cannot rely on tax revenues that we do not have yet.
- ✚ Our goals include review of all revenue sources and bring them into line with inflation and need. We cannot continue to rob Peter to pay Paul. That time is over. Headlee rollbacks continue to eat into funds available from the Millage – the Township Improvement and Harbor Millage expire this year.
- ✚ Our efforts must also consider the good of the entire Township. This will include restoration of the breakwall, upgrading facilities as necessary, and preparing for the future such as road improvements, sidewalks, and other key infrastructure needs. We have a lot of infrastructure problems that need to be addressed.

Summary:

The bottom line is that we've gone through a lot in the last year. Some things will take more time to resolve, some things have already been resolved, and new options are being considered.

We need to cut spending and rely only on the funds we currently have to avoid getting into a situation where we cannot meet our obligations again. This will require everyone's support and cooperation.

Electors Discussion:

- ✚ Gee Petruske asked about the Beach Access Fund and the Greenspace property. There was concern over the amount of “Beach Access” funds remaining with the Greenspace being included with it. Comments on this were heard from Sandee Sibbald, Aleta Hubbard, Delphine Wilson and Joe McDonald. Currently there is approximately \$2000.00 in the account after making the March payment to Mr. Warren. The payment was made from the CD that was purchased from Donations collected. Clerk Wampler will go through the records to document actual funds available for Beach Access and Greenspace.
- ✚ Virginia Minor asked about ownership of the Channel 29 camera and when it would be back on. Treasurer Oglevie said the camera is owned by the township and he is working with Grove Cable to move the camera to a new location since the new owners of the old “General Store” cut the power. Bayshore Market has offered to have the camera located on their tower and made room for the controllers. The only thing now is for Grove Cable to run the lines needed and to get the camera off the old “General Store”.
- ✚ Bill Egerer asked about the Harbor and the effort to restore the breakwall. Joe McDonald questioned the responsibility for maintenance of the breakwall if we built it ourselves.
- ✚ Aleta Hubbard asked about the budget, the loan and the deficit reduction plan. Clerk Wampler noted that we were very conservative in preparing the budgets and although the park was earmarked to repay the loan according to the deficit reduction plan it is hoped that the money gained from sale of timber will supplement the moneys needed and not raid the parks funds. Sandee Sibbald asked about the \$100,000 loan and the prior debts. The electors authorized up to \$175,000 mortgage on the township office and medical center property. Clerk Wampler noted that only \$100,000 was authorized to be drawn and is currently set up as a “Line of Credit” with the bank. Of the \$100,000 drawn all but approximately \$26,000 was used to pay off the illegal loans taken last summer. The remaining \$26,000 was put into the general fund and has been used up by other spending including the township manager salary and payroll taxes that were not included in the budgets.
- ✚ Norm Geiger asked about the law suit by John Underhill and proof of costs. Delphine Wilson was concerned that some of the expenses may not have been legitimate. Supervisor Hubbard noted that we cannot go into details as there is pending litigation but did note that we are working with Attorney Kirt Harmon to resolve the case. Virginia Minor asked if the case was a matter of public record. Supervisor Hubbard stated that yes, it is public record, that Mr. Underhill filed two separate law suits, one in District Court and one in Circuit Court for two different amounts due to the fact that some of the expenses he originally billed were paid direct by the township reducing his original bill from \$4200 to \$2400 however Clerk Wampler still found some discrepancies in the billing. The board is seeking receipts on the expenditures. Virginia Minor asked how much Mr. Harmon was charging (\$85 to \$120/hour) and felt that was a lot of money. Supervisor Hubbard indicated that he reviewed the bills and found Mr. Harmon to be quite reasonable in his charges.
- ✚ Sheri Shafer asked if the Millage could be itemized to show the increased revenues from the Millage questions – this was in regard to the Headlee Rollbacks that continue to reduce general fund appropriations every year. The Millage has not been voted in many years and only produces .6369 mills of the 1 mill to the general fund.
- ✚ Norm Geiger commented on the lack of Hate and Discontent in the community and the Board. Delphine Wilson indicated that the community doesn’t need it and that the public trusts and appreciates the honesty in the current Board. Chuck Wittenberg complemented the board for their hard work and efforts.

Adjournment: Motion by Gee Petruske and seconded by Aleta Hubbard to adjourn at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: March 31, 2007,

Kay L. Wampler, Township Clerk

Approved: November 13, 2007 on Motion by Sandee Sibbald with corrections,
seconded by Sally Brooks ~ 20 ayes, 0 nay’s