

WEBSTER TOWNSHIP

Webster Township Public Hearing FY 2018 Budget

March 21, 2017

Members present: Supervisor: John Kingsley, Clerk: Barbara Calleja, Treasurer: Carol Whitney, Trustees: Gary Koch, John Scharf, John Westman, Richard Kleinschmidt, Zoning Administrator: Randy Raiford, Deputy Clerk: Donna Whitney, and 12 citizens.

Public Hearing FY 2018 Budget

Kingsley opens Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Board member comments:

Koch – Asked about budget insert note stating there was a possibility of keeping the office closed on Fridays but having some employees work.

Kingsley - Not necessary at this time.

Westman –Question on Capital Improvement transfer.

Kingsley- Treated it the same as in the past. We transferred \$200,000 from General Fund to Capital Improvement Fund. Expenses taken out were we incurred since the end of the fiscal year relating to the proposed fire hall.

Whitney - We talked about just leaving the \$200,000 in General Fund, do we still want to do that? We could do that in the framework of the budget and move it back at a later date as a budget amendment if a fire house happens.

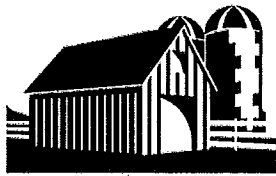
Kleinschmidt – We could keep it in but we don't need to spend it. Also - We cannot continue to give such generous employee increases each year. Got us into trouble in the past. These are good wages for 40 a hour work week, not 32.

Kingsley – When we did the budget for the assessor it allows for a level 3 assessor which we may be required to have in a couple years. Was hard not to increase one employee and not increase other employees. We have the luxury of having an assessor here which meets the public needs which is good. Some townships hire assessors on a per parcel basis. Some large townships have a whole assessment department.

Koch – I did research and we pay more than some other smaller townships that also have level 3 assessors.

Kingsley - Our deputies are doing work other than their actual deputy work, and getting paid out of the appropriate line items.

Scharf – Is the assessor budget to take place AFTER level three is achieved?



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Kingsley - Example – when we hired Randy. Once certified, we agreed on a pay increase AFTER his certification.

Scharf – I echo Ricks sentiment as far as employee pay.

Kingsley – Anything over the 2.5% cost of living is a raise.

Whitney – We DO need to decide when the assessor gets the level three raise. Recommend we do the raise when the class is done.

Scharf – Why was the work being done by Rick and not the assessor.

Kingsley – AMAR needs to be up to date in 3 years. AMAR found things in error in software and in property visitation. Cliff used to do this. Missed lots of properties. We took more aggressive approach by visiting every property every 3 years. This is our new standard. We need to then do property visits every 5 years to meet AMAR standards.

Scharf – Could assessor do this work once we get caught up?

Kingsley – I don't envision we keep Rick forever, but want to see him go through an entire cycle in the township in case cliff missed some of those.

Scharf – How many hours does Rick work

Kingsley - 9-2 during school year. When we hired him he was just helping Randy and Bill, but now Randy and Bill have been busy with other things. There were 870 parcels that land values were not properly accounted for. Randy has done a lot of work on the zoning ordinance to get it less cumbersome, more understandable and easier to enforce. He does go out for the zoning inspections.

Scharf – Can we get monthly assessor report''

Kingsley – That might be boring, maybe quarterly.

Raiford – You can talk to Bill.

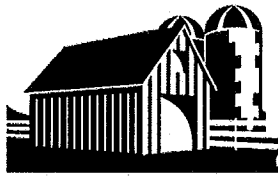
Bill – Come talk to me.

Westman – In the past, we have suggested that Bill come to some meetings.

Scharf – May be nice to hear what we got for our money that month.

Whitney – Bill did put a detailed report together a few months ago.

Koch - There is a big parking lot increase. Planning on doing something?



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Kingsley – The parking lot has issues, especially by the dumpsters and fire pad. Needs to be redone sometime in concrete or asphalt. This amount is not enough to do that, but at least we are setting some money aside. In 5 years will need to do something with the entire parking lot. It is better now since we asked Milligan not to push snow to the one corner.

Koch – Maybe the dumpster go somewhere else on the lot.

Westman – There is a significant budget increase in roads. Glad to see this. I would not like it to be spent in one place.

Scharf – I agree, but we should come up with a long term plan to maintain our gravel roads not just now but for the next 10 years.

Koch – I agree, but sometimes the Road Commission expects us to pay too much. We should have some say in what goes on. We do spend a lot on roads.

Kingsley – I was disappointed in the Road Commission spread sheet showing what the township spent. In past 10 years we were one of the highest in the county and the highest number dirt roads, but their spread sheet only showed 5 years. We had to pay for a \$410,000 bridge that probably was not necessary.

Westman - PDR asked for increase from \$5000 to \$6000 for an increase in legal fees. Most of that is behind us, so we probably won't need it all.

Public Comments –

No public comments.

Public Hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.