

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
April 8, 2008
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Special Board Meeting called to order to Prepare and Review 2008-09 Town (Corporate) Budget. Meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached.

Supervisor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces and for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Roll call:

Present: Supervisor Bob Howard **Trustees:** Dan Waterman, Ted Deery, Dennis Koehn

Absent: Trustee Elmer Becker

Other Officials present: Assessor Carol Blume and Clerk Joe Burgess

Public Commentary:

Village Administrator Bob Barber told the Board that the Village of Beecher was strongly considering placing a referendum on the upcoming November ballot asking the voters, residing within the village limits, to reauthorize the current GO Bond which matures in 2009. Barber said the reissued bond would be for approximately \$900,000 and the village intends to use the bond to build a new public works garage on property located just south of the Washington Township Center. If the voters approve the referendum, their taxes will not go up, however, if the referendum does not pass their taxes would go down because the current bond would be paid in full and the levy for this bond would be removed from tax bills. Bob indicated that the need for a new garage was a high priority and the Village Board is concerned that any other referendums being considered by other taxing bodies would have a great impact on the success of their referendum. Barber then asked what the status was on the Open Space Initiative and if it would require a referendum on the November ballot.

Supervisor Howard explained the township was following the provisions of the Open Space Act and the Open Space Committee was in the early stages as they are asking for signatures on petitions recommending that the Township Board commence preparation on an open space plan. This is just the first step in the process and public hearings would eventually follow and any referendum would only be considered once all the proper steps were taken and there was enough support to warrant putting a referendum on the ballot. However, Howard explained that the Board has been supportive of pursuing open space and the Board could not guarantee that the township would not put a referendum on the November ballot. Howard urged cooperation of all taxing bodies to assist in passing referendums that would improve services to the residents of the village and township.

Trustee Deery was very supportive of moving forward with the Open Space Act and told the board that due to the downturn in the economy, it was the right time to consider acquiring open space for future development of recreation and park facilities.

Barber reiterated that the village needs the voters to approve their GO Bond referendum and was “90% sure” that the village would put their referendum on the ballot and was still concerned that more than one referendum on the ballot would likely make passing any referendum difficult to pass.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Prepare and Review 2008-09 Town (Corporate) Budget* – The board reviewed a rough draft of the 2008-09 budget as prepared by the Supervisor and Clerk. The board reviewed each line item in the budget and made adjustments as deemed necessary. After discussion the Board determined to allocate \$2500 to Donations and also allocated \$5000 to Senior Programs and \$5000 to Youth Programs. It was also decided to place \$10,000 under Contingencies. The Insurance Fund and General Assistance Fund were also reviewed and line items were adjusted as necessary.

The major items of the 2008-09 General Town Fund Budget are as follows:

Beginning balance:	\$100,161
Total Revenue:	\$242,703
Total Funds:	\$342,864

<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Administration	\$223,014
Assessor	\$25,883
Transportation	\$16,140
Total Expenditures	\$265,037

<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$77,827</u>
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The major items of the 2008-09 Insurance Fund are as follows:

Beginning balance:	\$6,798
Total Revenue:	\$10,710
Total Funds:	\$17,508

<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Insurance	\$9,230
Total Expenditures	\$9,230

<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$8,278</u>
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The major items of the 2008-09 General Assistance Fund are as follows:

Beginning balance:	\$8,731
Total Revenue:	\$13,896
Total Funds:	\$22,627

Expenditures:	
Home Relief	\$14,000
Total Expenditures	\$14,000

Ending Balance **\$8,627**

There were no additional agenda items to discuss after completion of the budget.

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Koehn made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Waterman, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____