

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
BUDGET HEARING  
07/21/2017

Hart Van Horn, Chairman, called the Rushcreek Township Trustees Budget Hearing to order at 6pm leading in the Pledge of Allegiance dedicating it to the military who defend this nation and the law enforcement who protect our freedoms. Those in attendance in addition to Hart were: Bill Myers, Trustee; Dave Myers, Trustee; and Connie Moyer, Fiscal Officer.

Visitors present were: Richard Campbell, Chad Ashbaugh, Lisa Burnworth, Will Duvall.

The Trustees held a work session on June 23rd at 6:00pm with the department supervisors. This meeting was held to go over the projected income and expenditures for 2018.

To be compliant with the ORC the following ad was placed in the July 7<sup>th</sup> Eastern Edition of the Towne Crier and placed on the website. *Rushcreek Township Trustees will be holding a public hearing for the 2018 proposed tax budget. The same is on file at the office of the Fiscal Officer and is available for public viewing by calling 740-569-7181 Ext.#10 for an appointment. The hearing will be held at the township office, 213 Marietta St on July 21, 2017 at 6pm.*

The 2018 proposed budget was presented to the Trustees and copies were available for the public.

Hart opened the floor up for questions. Lisa Burnworth had several questions including the distribution of funds, diversification of banking facilities, and investment of funds. All questions were answered to her satisfaction. Lisa thanked the fiscal officer for providing a copy promptly and advised that with her banking background she was satisfied with how easily the budget was to read and was satisfied with all of the answers that was provided.

Hart asked the Trustees to propose questions or comments. Dave had no questions. Bill advised that the budget looked good and everything was discussed at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> work session.

Hart made statements for clarity and some concerns. The overall increase in revenue was approximately one percent per fund. The township has increased wages approximately two percent and this cannot be a trend. Another concern in particular was the purchase of the mower and tractor. Earl Lehman had stopped by the office and advised that the existing equipment had around 3,700 hours which is about ½ of its life, but no consultation or consideration has been made for repairs or upgrades of the existing equipment. The board should take a look at alternatives. When an individual purchases a new vehicle they research the cost to repair the existing vehicle or shop trade values. Trustees Myers and Myers have not supported this. Bill stated he is in agreement with the purchase as the current equipment is twenty years old, two-wheel drive, and is limited on its ability. With the heavy foliage, a longer arm mower would save work for our crew. Lisa Burnworth questioned Dave Myers on the hours of the existing equipment and agreed with the opinion that the those are not excessive for the life of the machine. Hart stated that a service company should look at the existing equipment and get a third party opinion. Hart continued that he is hearing we are scaling back our chip/seal to five or six miles, without a plan. The road department staff was increased to three people to handle these needs. The Trustees must choose needs over desires. There are approximately 300 locations around the township that need dust control. The Township has recently received several complaints about the lack of dust control and the Trustees addressed those complaints without resolution at the last meeting. One hundred thousand dollars for a new mower set up on the insistence of the other Trustees that's only used 8 weeks a year versus half of that to upgrade the existing equipment could provide

forty-five to fifty thousand dollars towards dust control and go a long way to addressing this need. . Where do we draw the line on spending the money for new equipment when service to the public is needed.

For the public in attendance who was not aware, Hart went over the OPEC-HC situation which had a significant impact on our budget. Bill and Dave questioned Richard Campbell about the personal medical status of his children and specific use of a health care program not related to the Township. Hart continued the report and indicated that he has taken the Township's coverage for employees as a matter to the Prosecuting Attorney to see if an injunction can be filed so that OPEC cannot use monies from premium payments for defense and legal fees since they have such an outstanding deficit owed to Jefferson Health. It is not anticipated that this matter will be cleared up by the beginning of the year however Hart assured all present that he is taking excellent notes so that the new Board will be able to carry-on without interruption after his term has ended.

There being no further discussion, Dave made a motion to approve the 2018 proposed budget and Bill seconded the motion. Hart advised he will abstain due to unanswered questions on the new equipment purchase. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, abstain.

The hearing with the Fairfield County Budget Commission is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2017 at 11:05am in the Commissioners' Hearing Room on the third floor of the County courthouse.

Meeting adjourned: 6:47pm.