

Township of Wright
Hillsdale County, Michigan
 112 East Center Street

Supervisor	Frederick J Horwath	14640 Waldron Rd	Waldron, MI	49288	(517) 286-6376
Clerk	Sharon J Zimmerman	11891 Waldron Rd	Waldron, MI	49288	(517) 286-6486
Treasurer	Harold L Douglas	201 S. Main St	Waldron, MI	49288	(517) 286-6660
Trustee	Roger L Zimmerman	11891 Waldron Rd	Waldron, MI	49288	(517) 286-6486
Trustee	William W White	13160 Lime Lake Rd	Hudson, MI	49247	(517) 383-2577

The regular monthly board meeting for the Township of Wright was held on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building.

The Supervisor, Fred Horwath called the meeting to order.

The meeting was opened with reciting of the pledge of allegiance and with prayer offered by Roger Zimmerman.

The Board Members in attendance were Fred Horwath, Bill White, Harold Douglas, Roger Zimmerman and Sharon Zimmerman.

There were a total of six guests present at the meeting that included Dale Berrett, John Pate, Leroy Morr, Brad Benzing, Elwood Seiple and Jeff Gier.

Roger Zimmerman made the motion, supported by Bill White to approve the minutes of last month's meeting and accept the treasurer's report as printed. (Treasurer's report attached) The motion was unanimous.

Sharon Zimmerman presented the Truth In Taxation proposal. The following needs to be approved: To adopt a resolution to establish the proposed additional rate of 1.9250 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2009 (Allocated Voted Roads Operating – 0.0246); and to hold the public hearing on increasing property taxes on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:40 p.m. at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building at 112 East Center Street, Waldron, MI. If adopted, the proposed additional Millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 0.90% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved the operating revenue will increase by 3.44% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The motion was made by Harold Douglas, and supported by Bill White to hold the Truth In Taxation Hearing at 7:40 p.m., September 10, 2009

Roll Call: Bill White – yes, Harold Douglas – yes, Roger Zimmerman – yes, Sharon Zimmerman – yes, Fred Horwath – yes. Unanimously passed. The resolution was adopted.

Jeff Gier, Sewer Manager, felt that we should raise the cost of Sewer Hook Up Fees as the cost has gone up like everything else. His suggestion is to raise the cost of a full hookup to \$6,950. and a half hookup to \$3,675.

Roger Zimmerman made a motion and supported by Bill White to increase the cost of hookups to the following: Full Hookup \$6,950. and Half Hookup \$3,675. Motion was unanimously passed.

Jeff shared with us that he has one other person (Gary Wireman) in the process of connecting to the sewer. They are now down to seven that need to be connected. He stated that if anybody asks about the fees, they do not include the excavating costs.

7:40 P.M. **Truth In Taxation Hearing.**

A "Truth in Taxation" hearing on increasing property taxes was conducted. We were subject to this hearing since our tax levy total was more than one mill. The Truth in Taxation computations were presented as prepared by The County Equalization Department.

- ✓ Our 2008 total taxable value was \$48,920.036.
- ✓ Our 2009 taxable value is \$51,059.724.
- ✓ The 2008 inflation rate for 2009 calculations is 1.044.
- ✓ Our 2008 operating millage rate actually levied was 2.7587 mills (Allocated – 0.8337 and Voted Roads – 1.9250).
- ✓ The 2009 maximum allowable operating millage under Headlee and MCL 211.34 is 2.7587 mills (Allocated – 0.8337 and Voted Roads – 1.9250).
- ✓ The 2009 base tax rate without a hearing would be 2.7341 mills (Allocated – 0.8263 and Voted Roads – 1.9078).
- ✓ The proposed increase is for a total of 0.0246 mills (Allocated – 0.0074 and Voted Roads – 0.0172) in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2009.
- ✓ The 2009 maximum total revenue without Truth in Taxation is \$139,603 (Allocated - \$42,191 and Voted Roads - \$97,412).
- ✓ The 2009 maximum total revenue with the Truth in Taxation is \$140,859 (Allocated - \$42,569 and Voted Roads - \$98,290.) The total revenue increase with a hearing is \$1,256.
- ✓ If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes **0.90%** over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved the operating revenue will increase by **3.44%** over the preceding year's operating revenue.

Motion was made by Board Member, Harold Douglas, and supported by Board Member Bill White, to adopt the additional millage which does not exceed that which appeared in the hearing notice that was published in the Hudson Bi County Herald on September 2, 2009. The resolution will increase the 2009 operating tax levies to the maximum allowable millage rate of 1.9250, an increase of 0.0246 (Allocated Operating is 0.8337, increasing 0.0074, and Voted Roads Operating is 1.9250, increasing 0.0172.) The maximum total revenue amount is \$140,859 (Allocated - \$42,569 and Voted Roads - \$98,290) The revenue increase is \$1,256 (Allocated Operating - \$378 and Voted Roads - \$878.)

Roll call vote:

William White – Yes or No or Absent

Harold Douglas – Yes or No or Absent

Roger Zimmerman – Yes or No or Absent

Sharon Zimmerman – Yes or No or Absent

Fred Horwath – Yes or No or Absent

The resolution was declared adopted.

Notice was received from Hillsdale County Road Commission, that they are going to do some deburring on Lickley Road. They asked if we wanted gravel put down. The Boards reply was yes as they didn't want to leave it bare.

A cost estimate was received from the Hillsdale County Road Commission for work to be performed on Tamarack Road @ Anderson Branch 2 #184B. Description of work to be performed: Replace 71" wide x 47" high culvert with 81" wide x 59" high culvert in cooperation with the County Drain Commission.

81"span x 59" rise x 52' long pipe arch culvert	\$4,000.00
Road Comm. furnished peastone, backfill, gravel and restore roadway	<u>\$9,000.00</u>
Drain Commission will furnish the excavation work and help install.	No charge

The total estimated cost is \$13, 000.00. Estimated cost to township based on current cost sharing policy: 50% \$6,500.00.

Bill White made a motion, supported by Harold Douglas, to approve the replacing of a culvert on Tamarack Road for estimated cost of \$6,500.00. (Townships share) Motion was unanimous.

The contract was signed with the Hillsdale County Road Commission to replace culvert on Tamarack Road.

Brad Benzing shared with us regarding some of his projects: Tax Revenue, People to buy in Michigan so as to be able to retain taxes for Michigan, Senior Center, area maps, Farmers Market which has been a success.

Bill White made a motion, supported by Roger Zimmerman to approve the minutes that are being recorded and at the next meeting October 8th. to erase the September 10, 2009 minutes from the recorder. Motion was unanimously passed.

Sharon Zimmerman reported that the Metro Act Monies that was voted on last month, allowing us to take out monies for Street Lighting and Dust Control, we are not able to do this as it was not put in the budget. Plans are being made to do this in the budget of 2010-2011.

September 8, 2009 Sharon Zimmerman contacted Kevin Shirk our Township Attorney regarding a letter she received from the MTA meeting in Hillsdale, explaining the difference between employees and contractors pay. This letter is stating that we need to start taking out taxes on our accessor Ben Wheeler as he is considered a Municipal Officer. Mr. Shirk said to do this as soon as possible. As of now he believes we need to go back at the beginning of the year and catch up with taxes. He suggested calling Ben and seeing what he would want us to do. We will need to do a W-2 form on Ben instead of a 1099 form. Sharon contacted Ben and asked him what he would like us to do about the employee or contractor? His response was, "Hold off until he can look into this matter a little more".

Sharon presented a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program - an application given to her by Robert D. Marry for the sale of property of Donald H. and Sarah E. Durling to Robert D. Marry.

Motion was made by Bill White, supported by Roger Zimmerman to accept Robert Marry's application of the Farmland Application. P.A. 116. Roll Call: Roger Zimmerman – Yes, Harold Douglas – Yes, Fred Horwath – Yes, Bill White – Yes, Sharon Zimmerman – Yes. Motion unanimously passed.

John Pate reported that the brimming of the roads has been completed.

Bill White made a motion, supported by Harold Douglas to pay the Sewer Bills. Motion was unanimous.

Roger Zimmerman made a motion, supported by Harold Douglas to pay the General Fund Bills. Motion was unanimously passed.

Harold Douglas made a motion, supported by Roger Zimmerman to adjourn. Motion was unanimously passed.

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Zimmerman – Township Clerk