

Republic Township Board
January 8, 2015
Budget Workshop Minutes

1. The Board came together @ 9:00 am to discuss the budget.
2. Trustee Knapp brought up the subject of the spreadsheet provided for the collections and expenses for the garbage collection, transfer station, and recyclables. It was discussed that garbage and transfer station rates need to be reviewed; changes may or may not be needed. At the next meeting, we can discuss these issues more in depth. Also discussed the possibility of more hours open for the Transfer Station.
3. Next discussed were rates for Variances, Land Divisions, Zoning Applications, etc. The expenses for these services far outweigh the fees being collected. People are not following the proper procedures for Land Divisions and are going directly to the county. Then we only get them once a year, it is a problem that needs to be resolved. Why is the county Register of Deeds allowing these land splits to be registered without an approval from the Township?
4. EMS – Discussed work being done on Radios and changes that need to be made to our antennas. Dan Mitchell is working on grants for as many things as possible for both the Ambulance and Fire Department. Also discussed the increase needed for training and education. Nancy and Hailie are working on expenses that can be foreseen for the coming budget year and for the next few months.
5. Brief discussion of water rates for “keep runs” and if we will ever charge a fee for having to thaw lateral lines for homeowners.
6. Brief discussion of emergency generator at EMS building. It is not set up to start automatically because there are too many power surges and brown outs in our area, it would cause the generator to wear out, perhaps the process can be simplified.
7. Discussion of EMS pay & bonuses. Discussion of setting up the EMS end of year bonus as a flat rate bonus as opposed to it being based on the number of runs or possibly paying them more per run instead of doing an end of year payment. No determinations were made, just discussion.
8. The Lion’s Club is considering making a donation to the Township towards the cost of installing handicapped door openers for the Township Hall. We are working on getting prices now; we should have them by the next meeting.
9. We are also getting estimates to replace the lights in the Town Hall. These fluorescent lights are terrible and would like to have more efficient lighting.

10. Discussion about security cameras. We believe that law enforcement has the ability to take our footage and enhance it. We got a letter from Ikey Todd regarding vandalism at her shop. The problem is we should not be doing security for these businesses; these businesses should file the report with the Police so that the Police can handle the situation, and they could utilize our footage. To our knowledge no police reports have been filed. UPPCO is supposed to upgrade the light across the street from Ikey's shop, but it may or may not help.
11. Is there a way to transfer some money to our capital expenditure fund to get another truck to replace the one of Diane's that has fallen apart?
12. Our income figures don't look to change very much, except we are planning to discuss possible rate increases, and perhaps the ambulance will begin to bring money in again.
13. Had a brief discussion of the grant for Munson Park getting started in the spring, and the grant for the Bank Building being resubmitted with some changes for adding handicapped access to the river. These will be discussed in more detail in later meetings.
14. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2015 @ 9:30am.
15. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Jim Brennan
16. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned @ 11:45am

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk Date