

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2016-2017 OPERATING BUDGET

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016

5:30 P.M.

Supervisor John Cox called the Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 Operating Budget to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to review the 2016-2017 Proposed Operating Budget and hear comments from the public on it. Supervisor Cox gave the following Budget Highlights and Goals:

- Millage rate set at 4.5497 mills
- Interest income remains flat due to low interest rates
- State Revenue sharing increased by 2.6%
- Taxes – some went up and some went down
- No increase in quarterly rates for garbage collection or building permit fees for our residents
- No salary increases of (Cost of Living 0%) for Board Members, appointed boards and employees
- Salaries for Treasurer, Clerk, and Supervisor include use of vehicle for local travel
- Per Diems held at same levels as last year for all appointed boards and election board. Education budgets continue to emphasize training for board members, appointed boards and employees to increase efficiencies.
- Compensation for Board members attending workshops and meetings limited to an average of two meetings per month.
- Public Works category funded at \$10,000 for Total Patcher materials around the township. Only Total Patcher work to be done on roads this year.
- No extra roadside mowing this year prior to July 4th. Mowing will be done according to the Road Commission schedule.
- Fire number-address signs will be purchased and installed on the remaining residents in the township costing approximately \$6,000. 133 signs remain to be done.
- Spring Cleanup funded up to \$3,000. Spring cleanup to be two days
- Reflects cost of full audit which is required every two years
- Contracts for services from the City of Wakefield held at 0%

GOALS FOR 2016-2017

- Continue to provide support to the proposed Indianhead Hotel and Casino project

-Continue to secure and investigate possibilities for motorized ATV and snowmobile trails, to work towards building an ATV scramble park in the township and continue to support non-motorized across Gogebic County. A DNR officer has been hired for the Western UP area.

-Continue to provide support to the proposed Highland Mine Project – including permitting, infrastructure, and other services necessary to see the project to its fruition

-Continue our efforts in bringing blighted properties into compliance in the township

-Continue to monitor the functions and support of the Solid Waste Authority

-Monitor functions of the Road Commission by having the supervisor meet with Road Commission monthly or as needed and report back to the board

-Continue to pursue natural gas service for Wakefield Township Johnson Road area in cooperation with Excel Energy

-Work pro-actively with 911 Committee and other agencies to react to emergencies in Wakefield Township which include ski-hill evacuation, pipeline emergencies, power outages, water, etc.

-Update our Web Site

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Any other comments or questions on the 201602017 Wakefield Township Budget? None.

I will ask one more time, “Are there any other questions or comments from the audience?” Hearing none, Supervisor Cox moved that the Budget Hearing was declared closed and adjourned at 6 p.m.