

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2017-2018 OPERATING BUDGET

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 AT 5:30 PM

Supervisor John Cox called the Public Hearing for the 2017/2018 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 2017-2018 Proposed Operating Budget and hear comments from the public on it. Supervisor Cox gave the following Budget Highlights and Goals:

-Garbage collection contribution by residents raised to \$10.00 and the rate will remain the same for three years.

-No increase in building permit fees for residents.

-Categories of revenue fine-tuned to be similar to past history.

-Millage rate set at 4.3021 mills.

-Interest Income remains flat due to low interest rates.

-State revenue sharing increased by 2.6%, but declining population leaves revenue sharing in real dollars with no increase.

-Includes funds for developing a Master Plan.

-Health and Life insurance continues to be eliminated for all officers and board members saving up to \$100,000 per budget year.

-Salary Increases of 3% for Board Members, appointed boards, and employees. The Board froze all salaries for 16-17. It is the Board's intention to no longer roll-up salary increases in the future until more revenue is realized in the budget.

-Salaries for Treasurer, Clerk, and Supervisor include use of vehicle for local travel. Economic development activities included in Supervisor's salary.

-Per diems increased by 3% for all appointed boards and elected board. Education budgets continue to emphasize training for board members, appointed boards, and employees to increase efficiencies.

-Public Works category funded at \$10,000 for total patcher materials around the township.

-Includes new sign for the Township Hall, additional office equipment, and continuing repairs and maintenance of township hall.

-Spring Cleanup fully funded and will be two days.

-Reflects lower cost of mini-audit which is required every two years.

-Contracts for services from the City of Wakefield held at 0% (Inflation payment of 3% or \$600)

- Funds set aside (\$3000) for purchase of new voting machines required by the Secretary of State.
- Renaissance Budget is no longer needed since loan is paid off.

GOALS FOR 2017-2018

- Continue to provide support to the proposed Indianhead Hotel and Casino project.
- Continue to secure and investigate possibilities for motorized ATV and snowmobile trails, and to work towards building an ATV scramble park in the township.
- Continue to improve and pave roads.
- 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.
- Monitor the functions of the Road Commission, by having the Supervisor meet with the Road Commission monthly, or as needed, and report back to the Board.
- Continue to pursue natural gas service for Wakefield Township residents in cooperation with Xcel Energy.
- Work to secure grants and partnerships to develop high speed internet for the industrial park and residents.
- Work with the Planning Commission to develop a Master Plan for the township with the emphasis on citizen involvement and brevity of the Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Any other comments or question on the 2017-2018 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 PM.

MANDY LAKE, CLERK OF WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP