

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chairman Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Jeff Lundholm
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Angela Christianson

2015 Budget Meeting

The annual Budget Meeting for the Town of Canosia was held on February 19, 2015, at the Canosia Town Hall. Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m., and opened it up for discussion.

ATTENDING: Chairman Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Jeff Lundholm, Treasurer Angela Christianson, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Chief Clyde Mortinsen, Fire Relief Treasurer Scott Mercier and four residents.

Treasurer Christianson said she rolled over the numbers from the previous year's budget to use as a starting point. She had to guess on a few new variables (i.e. PERA changes, Pike Lake Inspections). Road & Bridge disbursements were also noticeably less than the previous year (there was some disagreement whether this had to do with FEMA reimbursements or the fact that the township did not do many road repairs this past summer). Christianson also noted that the Fire Department did a solid job of sticking to their budget. Supervisor Lundholm noted the township will no longer need to pay the county \$21,000 for property assessments.

Supervisor Comnick recommended no levy increase for 2016 but wanted to allocate \$63,000 for the Parks & Recreation fund in order to fix the courts, which he considers a safety hazard and the township's top priority. In Comnick's proposal, the extra \$30,000 for the rec area would come from the Road and Bridge fund (decrease from \$91,700 to \$81,700) and the Fire Department (decrease from \$45,000 to \$25,000).

Chief Stevens said the Fire Department has saved all its money for a reason: they need to have money in the bank to deal with unexpected repairs (i.e. a current truck repair could cost \$20,000) and they will soon need to replace 30 SCBA packs which will cost \$900 each.

Supervisor Lundholm also disagreed with the proposed FD's cuts, saying the department had generated and earned the money (roughly \$72,000) through various jobs like the Ham Lake Fire. He agreed that the courts need to be fixed but wants to see a specific plan in place and then apply for grants. Comnick argued that he and the school district already have estimates, plans, vendors, etc. but they need a timeline to fix it first before moving forward. There was some disagreement about whether Comnick ever told the board how much the court repairs would likely cost. Chairman Campbell added that it would be reckless to de-fund emergency services. He believes the rec area repairs are a multi-year project.

Fire Relief Treasurer Scott Mercier requested that the township base their contribution to the relief association on the mil levy formula rather than a flat \$10,000 like they did last year. Supervisor Comnick said he talked with Rose Hennessy from the state auditor's office who said the Fire Relief account was fully funded at this point. He asked that the fire department tell the

board if they are planning to increase the amount of the retirement pension the retirees receive. Mercier argued that they can't predict when they will be able to increase the pension because they never know what they're going to get; he will only increase it when and if they have enough to do so. The department members also argued that the pension is crucial to the future of the department (i.e. attracting and maintaining members; showing they are appreciated).

Motion by Campbell, seconded by Lundholm, to make a straight contribution of \$16,000 to the fire relief association in 2016. Discussion: Campbell said he felt the \$16,000 was a fair compromise (\$20,000 is the max). Supervisor Connick said he would support the motion if the relief association agreed to come to the board each July and tell them if they anticipate increasing the pension amount. Campbell said he rejected this stipulation. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

After much discussion: Motion by Connick, seconded by Campbell, to recommend the following breakdown for the 2016 levy:

- **Total Levy Amount = \$297,700 (no change from 2015):**
 - **General Revenue Levy: \$112,600 (up from \$105,500 in 2015)**
 - General \$88,600 (down from \$90,000)
 - Parks & Rec \$20,000 (up from \$13,000)
 - WLSSD \$4,000 (up from \$2,500)
 - **Fire Department Levy: \$106,000 (up from \$100,000 in 2015)**
 - Fire Department \$45,000 (no change)
 - Fire Relief \$16,000 (up from \$10,000)
 - Fire Truck \$45,000 (no change)
 - **Road & Bridge Levy: \$79,100 (down from \$91,700 in 2015)**

Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Treasurer Angela Christianson gave the board her letter of resignation, effective April 1, 2015. Christianson said Cheryl Borndahl (who was the board's second choice for the treasurer position last year) may be interested in the job. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

Motion by Connick, seconded by Campbell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
April 2, 2014

Scott Campbell, Chairman
April 2, 2014