

**ELK TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**May 6, 2014**

The special meeting of the Elk Township Committee was held on the above date in the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Spring at 6:03PM.

The Open Public Meeting Notice was read.  
The Salute to the Flag was recited.

**ROLL CALL:** Present were: Mr. Barbaro, Mr. Marchei, Mr. Poisker, Ms. Yenner, Mayor Spring, Mr. Considine, CFO, and Mrs. Pine, Township Clerk.

**TOPICS:**

**2014 Municipal Budget**

Mr. Considine stated for the record that there are no decisions to be made tonight.

Mr. Considine explained to committee the budget problem for this year is a revenue problem. State Aid has been flat for several years. The revenue in the court and construction offices are both down. Sharing court revenue is up due to the signed agreements. However this is the third and final year of the court agreement.

Our surplus is also down, which means there is less money to help with the budget, which also means there is less cash on hand.

Mr. Considine, Mayor Spring and Mr. Poisker met with Mike Welding from the auditing firm, Bowman & Company to discuss the budget for 2014. The budget as it stands now is bare bones. There are no raises in the budget. There is a one-time accounting trick to allow the gap to be closed. It is to take the temporary financing and make it permanent.

Mr. Considine stated that he does not necessarily like this budget but we will have to live with it.

There are a few things that can be done to give a little relief in 2015. One is the selling of a liquor license and a land sale. The auditor also recommends holding a lien sale.

We may want to look at changing the fees of the mobile home park.

Mr. Poisker asked to go over 2014, staying within the cap.

Mr. Considine explained the maximum that can be raised by taxation is \$2,734,000. We need \$2,780,000, that is \$46,000 over what is allowed. By turning the temporary financing to permanent, which means the principal payment will not need to be made this year and taking the principal payment out of the budget. We are still required by law to raise a certain amount each year but by going permanent we will not need to raise the money this year saving \$56,000. This is the only way he can see to balance the budget, unless committee would like to make \$46,000 in cuts.

This budget is approximately a 3.3 cent increase. This budget will be using \$423,000 in surplus. There is currently \$750,000 in surplus. The theory is the amount of surplus that is being used is the amount that should be replaced. This budget will replace approximately \$260,000.

Mayor Spring stated we need to bring in businesses. We need to look at a Master Plan Revision.

Mr. Considine stated taking the temporary stuff, some of which is paid off, we are only making principal payments, cancel out what is not being spent and sell the current bonds. This permanent financing will lock in the payment for 10 years. There are 2 things that need to be purchased, a new mower and a new court sound system.

Mr. Poisker looked through the budget and stated there is a department that has increased their budget by \$100,000 and the revenue being generated is down \$40,000 over a 3 year period. That is a \$140,000 decrease. Their overtime is \$57,000. Is the township any safer with more men?

Mr. Marchei thinks the O/E at \$86,000 is very high. There are 11 full-time and 3 part-time officers.

Mr. Poisker asked if there is a number Mr. Considine would like to see in revenue generation in 2014.

Mr. Considine would love to see \$200,000 in revenue. Tax collection is in the 93% range.

Mr. Considine stated this is the last year of the 4 year phase in for the health insurance contribution by the employees. That should be around \$35,000 in contribution.

There are certain items that cannot be cut, such as pension, health insurance, trash collection, tipping fees. Our trash tipping fees have gone down over the years. Shared services were mentioned. Are there any other area that can be shared? Construction office could be shared. Mayor Spring mentioned looking into a shared service for trash collection. Mr. Considine stated that will not affect the tipping fees, it will only affect the contract with Waste Management. We are a small municipality, most offices are a one man operation. Mayor Spring stated there is legislation encouraging shared services. Mr. Poisker state committee needs to get to work and be creative. We need to talk about ways to generate income.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Motion by Mr. Marchei to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Poisker, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Spring asked if anyone had any comments on the budget to come forward at this time.

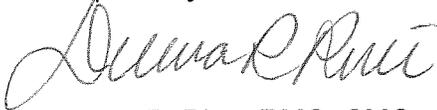
Carolyn Sammons, 431 Union St., feels for committee, it is going to be a tough year. Not only may there a increase at the township, what are the schools looking for this year. Mrs. Sammons, would like to see committee put the liquor license out for sale again and sell off some of the township owned land.

Motion by Ms. Yenner to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Marchei, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Considine will prepare the budget based on going out for permanent financing. He will also prepare a bond ordinance for the purchase of a new lawnmower and court recording system.

Motion by Mr. Marchei to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Barbaro, all were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debora R. Pine, RMC, CMC  
Township Clerk