

Zion Township looking at budget

By **MONA SHANNON**
ZION-BENTON NEWS

The Zion Town Board began discussions of its proposed budget Tuesday night but ran out of time as the Zion City Council meeting was slated to start. A vote on the budget was deferred until the May meeting.

Trustee Jim Taylor raised concerns about some of the items in the budget in light of the high taxes local residents pay. He noted that Zion has the highest property tax in Lake County.

Taylor questioned \$15,000 budgeted for education expenses for Township staff and the supervisor. Taylor said the education budget for the police and fire is only

\$3,500.

He also objected to the Township donating \$2,000 to ESDA. "This is a city program and the Township should not fund it."

Taylor questioned the \$5,000 in the budget for the Boys & Girls Club. He said it was not meant to be funded by taxing bodies. Township Supervisor Cheri Ditzig said everyone has agreed that the Boys & Girls Club would be a full community solution for any kid. "We cut all other youth programs out of our budget."

Taylor recommended everyone on the board write a \$500 check to Boys & Girls Club and not spend tax money.

He also questioned \$4,000

for a community service program and Teen Court. "This should be sponsored by the police department and the high school."

Ditzig said a lot of teens have to do community service and they are put with adults. This would provide a youth version and it would be hooked in with Youth Build.

"It comes to a point when Zion Township cannot be all things to all people. We are there to help the indigent and for General Assistance. I'm not against these programs but if we budget it we have to appropriate it and then it goes on the taxes," said Jim Taylor.

Trustee Lloyd DeTienne agreed. "Jim is right. I like to help people but people are tired of taxes going up."