

**MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP OF THE TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS**

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Chairman Neal called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Trustees Flammini, Hill, and Chairman Neal. Gail Gloudemans, Assistant Township Supervisor, Larry Wicketts, Township Assessor, and Lisa Woodman, Deputy Assessor, were also present. Trustee Taylor was absent. Trustee DeTienne arrived at 10:12 a.m.

**2013/2014 TOWNSHIP TAX LEVY**

Chairman Neal stated that the levy amount for the Corporate Town Fund was \$711,287.

Larry Wicketts stated that the market value of Calpine was set at \$40 million which he raised to \$116 million based on a quality appraisal. The Board of Review set the value at \$15 million which represents a loss of \$8.3 million in EAV. He stated that on January 16, 2014, a hearing has been set regarding the nuclear plant which currently has a \$50 million value. He expects a decrease to \$25 million market value so \$25 million will be lost which represents another \$16 million in EAV. He stated that the values across the board will go down by 9% in the upcoming year. David Knabel stated that he based the City levy on \$255 million in EAV and Assessor Wicketts recommended using that figure as well. Chairman Neal stated that the County recommended \$284 million which is the figure the Township used in preparation of the levy ordinance. Trustee Hill stated that the entire budget would need to be cut by 11%. Mr. Wicketts stated that the Township needs to look at health insurance costs and that perhaps more of the cost should be passed along to the employees. He stated it costs the Township about \$25,000 per employee for health insurance.

Trustee DeTienne arrived.

Chairman Neal recommended maintaining the numbers presented in the proposed levy ordinance and cutting \$200,000 from the budget. Trustee Hill recommended a line item by line item review of the budget. Chairman Neal stated that the proposed levy is \$60,000 lower than last year at \$737,000. She stated that Gail Gloudemans and Lisa Woodman will create a budget breakdown and be ready to discuss the budget in January. Mr. Wicketts stated that he would have no new personnel starting in January. If new personnel was approved, they would not start until April or May. He stated that he does need additional personnel as Ms. Woodman concentrates on residential. There is no one to handle the commercial appraisals. They had 800 complaints this past year with no one to handle them. Mr. Wicketts stated that an additional employee would cost \$50,000 in salary and \$25,000 for health insurance, and after looking at the numbers, the Township cannot afford to hire an employee at this time. He stated that he was willing to go another year without additional staff, however, he would like to have some funds available in the budget to hire a temporary employee if necessary.

Chairman Neal stated that the tax levy will be presented for approval as it stands, every effort will be made to bring expenses down to the level of revenue, any large expenditures will be postponed, and Ms. Gloudemans and Ms. Woodman will work on a budget breakdown to determine how every dollar is being spent. She stated that the Trustees should be prepared to meet again no later than the last week of January.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, it was moved by Trustee Hill, seconded by Trustee Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried.

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Town Clerk