

BILLINGS TOWNSHIP
2017-18 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 25, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Carl Malott, Lydia Goschke, Larry Grell, Larry Nelson, Brian Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Larry Grell

Approval of the Agenda: Larry Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, Brian Johnson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

Opening of Budget Public Hearing: Time: 9:02 a.m. Larry Grell distributed copies of Preliminary 2017-18 Budget to attending public. Larry Grell said the public could have their “full disclosure” when the budget is finalized and entered into the Clerk’s computer. It will be available for viewing on the Township Hall premises during township business hours. Unfortunately, due to time and materials to copy the full budget, there will be a charge for any resident, with a request letter, wanting their own copy.

Larry Grell then proceeded to go over the budget item by item, starting with the **General Fund**. He covered expenditures, explaining potential projects at the township hall. Two **trustees** salary remains the same, **Supervisor’s** mileage expenses raised, but not his salary. The **Clerk’s** salary remains the same, but the **Deputy Clerk’s** salary has been raised. **Board of Review:** remains the same. **Treasurer’s** remains the same, but **Deputy Treasurer** will have a raise in salary. **Assessors:** contract comes up in April and they will be getting a raise. They have been doing an excellent job and have given us a good deal. **Elections:** will be less since there are none projected until after the new budget in 2018. **Building and Grounds:** remains about the same. **Cemetery:** Rose a little bit because we are planning to purchase software for better record-keeping. **Police/Sheriff:** raised a little. **Ordinance Enforcer:** remained the same. **Public Works:** has gone up a little since last budget. Garry Hunt has been doing a great job. Nothing on Highways/Streets/Bridges. **Street Lighting:** lowered a little. **Planning & Zoning, Zoning Administration, Zoning Board of Appeals:** remains the same. **Parks & Recreation:** showed some revenues. Their budget is lower this year since they will not have the expenses for a new roof for the building this year. **Roads and Bridges:** increased quite a bit this year, put \$89,800.00 in budget. We’re putting “overlays” on two roads (Pinconning and Anderson); Road starting from the trailer park (Wixom Rd.) out along Wieman Rd. to Estey Rd. will be chip sealed. And if the budget works out with the County (Gladwin), the first mile of Jones Rd. going south from Estey Rd. will be crushed, reshaped and black-topped. Cost would have been \$130,000 but County just charging \$60,000. Larry Grell feels that his attendance and input at the County Road Commission meetings has helped Billings Twp. get recognized for needed road work. **Fire Fund:** new truck: manufacture of the chassis will be around \$100,000.00. We’ve signed the contract and work is being started. Once the chassis is complete, then the “box” of the truck will be manufactured. It will take a year for the truck to be built, starting with the chassis. **Garbage Collection:** revenues. Working on Republic to see about getting larger containers for the recycling. Brian Johnson said pricing would be approximately \$0.65/month per house for larger recycle container if we renew our contract with Republic now. **Mosquito Control:** revenues (depends on taxes); bill about \$65,000 for year. **Sewer Plant:** another tax-based fund. We are also required (by Rural Development), to have an **RRI Fund**, which will have \$12,000 put into it in September. Expenditures from this will be for sludge removal, replace or repair pumps, etc.

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Last 6 pages of the budget refer to private road maintenance assessments. We just receive/manage monies collected from assessments and they send us road maintenance bills to be paid.

Public Comments: Question on private roads and assessments. They have seen county trucks go down private roads. Larry Grell said the County Road Commission does not take care of private roads. Property owners must see to their road maintenance, etc. He explained that property owners hire the road work and we just pay the bills when they come in out of their assessment fund.

Also regarding the Planning Committee, what is being planned for the long term plan? Larry Nelson said the Master Plan is available for her to take a look at. Right now there is nothing in the Plan major in the works for this year, plans for next year or year after that. Meetings will be posted. Monies are put into their budget "in case" of site planning, ordinance reviews, etc. Some years it isn't spent. Talked about work needed to be done on Estey Road bridge, Larry Grell said there are so many bridges in Gladwin County that are in critical condition, and we can't get a road millage passed, so Estey Rd. bridge is low on the list for repairs.

Question on recycle: Larry Grell said we pay \$90/year assessment; Tobacco Twp. pays \$185/year, and their recycle is just a bin at their township hall that property owners need to bring their recycle to.

Meeting closed 9:25 a.m.

Brian Johnson made a motion to adopt the 2017-18 Budget, Larry Nelson 2nd, roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion made by Brian Johnson to adjourn the meeting, Larry Nelson 2nd, all in favor, motion carried. Adjourned 9:27 a.m.

Minutes taken and transcribed by: Lydia Goschke, Township Clerk