

Orange Township Board Meeting
Special Budget Workshop
265 W David Hwy Ionia Mi 48846
Berlin – Orange Fire Station
February 16 2016

- 1) Special Budget Workshop meeting on February 16 2016 was called to order at 7pm
- 2) Present – Green, Plett, First and DePotty. Wittenbach was tardy
- 3) Pledge of allegiance by all present. No public present
- 4) The current to date budget and the monetary activities for this 2015-16 fiscal year was presented by Plett for cost centers review by the board
- 5) Projected ordinary income adjustments were made for fiscal 2016-17
- 6) Projected ordinary expenses adjustments were made for fiscal year 2016-17

Motion to transfer funds of \$1400 from account line 253.729 Treasurer Software Support to account line 211.702 Attorney to cover overage was made by Green with support from First. Motion carried

Motion to accept an auditor proposal for 2016 from Tiejema was made by Green with support from First. Motion carried.

7) Other areas of the proposed budget and future needs/desires were discussed. Of topic was the David Hwy Bridge replacement. The Township has a signed contract with the ICRC for \$57,000 for Township portion of replacement of bridge. The RC has now discovered they made an error in underestimating the costs of the new bridge and has presented the Township Board with an “amended” contract for \$90,000 without prior notice or any information details.

A discussion followed which included, but was not limited to;

- Why there was no prior notice from the RC of the problems with engineering and other financial errors other than a different contract handed to the board.
- Who were the other bids from and who is actually doing the bridge work.
- Why the ICRC has not been involving the Township in the process of redoing the bridge with either the first or second estimates of costs.
- The fact that townships are supposed to be involved in the process when township funds are being used. Why has the RC treated the township board poorly through the process?
- The invoices already paid by the township do not even have any details of what work was performed other than the word “contractors” and a cost printed on it. The township did not know what company is billing for the funds that are being paid. The Road Commission had to be contacted to get any type of work information about those invoices.

Orange township Board Members; *Supervisor;* Tom Green *Clerk;* Linn Plett
Treasurer; Karla Wittenbach *Trustees;* Josh First and Wayne DePotty

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- The fact that we don't have to pay for, or put funds towards, the new bridge at all.
- A question of if we don't agree to this new cost increased contract will the township residents be penalized on getting any future road work completed in the township?
- Discussion on possibly splitting the township's cost increase that the ICRC wants in the new contract 50-50 with the Road Commission. The township board knows of course, that the bridge needs to be redone and that the board has a responsibility to the township residents. Any Funds that are possibly available in budget was researched.

Motion to transfer funds from account #101.392 Township Hall to account #101.393 Township Needs to help cover bridge costs was made by Green with support from Wittenbach. Motion carried

A motion to voluntarily offer to the ICRC a 50-50 split of the extra \$30,000 that the ICRC wants from the township to cover their errors in the original engineering and construction costs, with the Township's monetary portion offered being \$15,000 with a total payout for bridge from the township not to exceed \$75,000, was made by DePotty with support from Wittenbach. Motion carried

A meeting will be set up with the ICRC to present and discuss this offer with them

7) Motion to adjourn meeting made at 8:30pm by Plett with support by First. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted;

Linn Plett
Orange Township Clerk

Approved March 15th 2016

Orange township Board Members; *Supervisor;* Tom Green *Clerk;* Linn Plett
Treasurer; Karla Wittenbach *Trustees;* Josh First and Wayne DePotty