

Glen Arbor Township

P.O. Box 276 Glen Arbor, MI 49636

231-334-3539 FAX 231-334-6370

John C. Soderholm, Supervisor

Bonnie Quick, Clerk

Terry J Gretzema, Treasurer

Kent Kelly, Trustee

Wm. Thompson, Trustee

Annual Meeting
Minutes

March 27, 2010

(Meeting Tape Recorded)

The Annual Budget Hearing was called to order by Chairman, John Soderholm at 10:00 AM in the Glen Arbor Town Hall. All Town Board members were present including, John Soderholm, Supervisor; Bonnie Quick, Clerk; Terry Gretzema; Treasurer; Kent Kelly, Trustee, and Wm. Thompson, Trustee. There were 35 people in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Soderholm commends Board, deputies, custodian, zoning administrator and emergency services personnel.

Motion Peter VanNort, second Bill Freeman to approved minutes of budget hearing of March 28, 2009 as amended. Motion carried.

Supervisor Soderholm went line by line through the proposed budget.

Revenue expected to be 6% down. Upcoming projects include: Day Forest Road repaving paid for on a 50/50 split with County, dredging project with grant money and sharing with Empire, installation for monitoring wells with sampling in the fall to help sewer committee planning, recycling containers with support from Chamber of Commerce and sponsorship, generator replacement (in case of community disaster), town hall ceiling insulation, and replacement town hall furnaces.

Budget Hearing adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Annual Meeting called to order at 10:34 A.M. by Soderholm. Copies of the March 29, 2009 annual meeting minutes were reviewed. **Motion by Peter VanNort, support by Bill Freeman to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

Public Comment – Jeanine Dean asked about ceiling fans, and yes they are still installed. Bricks are still available to purchase for the garden project.

Soderholm commends Fire and Emergency Services. ISO ratings were reduced. Most areas were reduced from 9 to a 7 (The Homestead 9 to a 5). With this lower ISO rating, home insurance costs can be significantly reduced. Not all insurance carriers are affected however.

Glen Lake Community Library provided written report.

Sewer Committee - Frank Siepker – Last year the Township Board authorized Gosling & Czubak engineers to do a study. They provided sophisticated maps and an environmental needs review. At this time, the need is not demonstrated. Businesses cannot expand and many have holding tanks. Monitoring ground water with wells is recommended. The Board budgeted for the wells.

Salary & Wage Committee – Bruce Wagner – The committee recommended a salary freeze and it was a difficult decision. The proactive leadership, collection of PILT funds, successful integration of Empire and Glen Arbor's emergency services, reduction of emergency services millage for the last 3 years, and other commendable performances, made it difficult to freeze the salaries. Unfortunately, the current economic conditions lead to their recommendation of no increase in Board salaries.

Leelanau County Commissioner – David Marshall – They are managing County government on flat revenue. A line by line budget review was made to reduce expenditures. Townships get a bigger

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portion of PILT money. Two special projects; Veteran's Memorial and Clean Water Task Force (invasive species).

Assessors – Polly Cairns – Reported a good year with a lowering of assessment values. They worked with flow capacity issues for Emergency Services ISO ratings. (Chief John Dodson arrived at meeting and received a standing ovation) Taxable values are flat even though other areas in the state are down 20 and 30%. State is mandating a one year sales analysis period rather than three years. Website has link to assessing data. State of the art mapping is now available.

Dredging Committee – Bill Freeman - Grant from Michigan Waterways is completed by Soderholm. Grobbel and Associates reports we can't dredge within 66 feet from the middle of the roadway (this eliminates dredging under the bridge). Sand will be recycled to the Empire's new children's park.

Fire Chief Report – John Dodson – Annual report available. There is a full 19 months of operating together with Empire. We should see associated costs reductions. Call volume spiked and staffing increased with merger. Empire had an ISO rating review for the first time in 17 years; there was a first time in 33 years ISO rating for Glen Arbor. Boiler required overhaul. There are 36 emergency services personnel with 120 extra hours of officer training. This makes them very qualified EMS/FF's. Only 30 days were given (3000 hours in 3 weeks) to prepare for ISO review. Tim Cairns, assessor, was extremely helpful. Rating system: 10% based on dispatch, 50% administration, and 40% hauling water, where we are disadvantaged because getting the water with the centrifuge pump has to be in 2 feet of water within 20 feet of hose. Dry hydrants are used. The department came in under budget for 09-10, \$191,982. Estimated budget for 10-11 is \$1,582,723 with reduced expenses of \$70,777. Millages for both Empire and Glen Arbor have dropped. Upcoming projects: Heavy duty rescue truck, rescue watercraft and disposal of apparatus. If a rescue boat is to be purchased, it will be done through grants and donations. Dodson pledges not to use taxpayer money for the boat. Ninety-three percent of the homes that they cover are on the waterfront. The rescue boat will also provide a water supply for fire fighting. Annual maintenance is estimated at \$4,000/year. Marine grade aluminum boat has a 50 year useful life. Fire apparatus is disposed of with some useful life so that there is salvage value.

Zoning & Planning Report – John Pepler, Vice- Chairman Planning Commission. They meet the first Tuesday of each month and would appreciate public attendance. Purpose is to promote health, safety and welfare of township by preventing overcrowding and promote orderly growth. Changes in 2009 ordinance: officially allow rental of residential homes, site plan review and adjusted application process, and parking rules. They are currently working on site plan review plans and prohibition of street vendors. Check out the website.

Glen Arbor Township Park Commission Report – no formal report.

Public Comment – Shirley Hoagland questioned if rental homes strain septic systems. Hawley, Zoning Administrator, answered by saying that water quality is improving and there's not evidence of any problems.

Annual Meeting Adjourned 11:47p.m.