

Call to Order: Supervisor Collin Walls called the March 13, 2006 Special Joint Workshop Meeting of the Springfield Township Board, Parks Commission and Library Board to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Nancy Strole	Township Clerk
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Roger Lamont	Township Trustee
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee

Board Members Absent

Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
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Park Commission

Jean Vallad	Parks Treasurer
Kelly Hyer	Parks Secretary
Rich Parke	Parks Chairperson
Dot LaLone	Parks Commissioner
Diane Baker	Parks Commissioner
Pat Deweese	Parks Commissioner
Ronald Hudson	Parks Commissioner

Library Board

Kathleen Rollins	Library Board
Ruth Gruber	Library Board
Barbara Kochan-Dove	Library Board
Kathleen Uhlia	Library Board

Library Board Members Absent

James Banes	Library Board
Kristine Bower	Library Board

Others Present

Jennifer Tucker	Parks Director
Cathy Forst	Library Director

New Business:

1. Financial Planning, Budgets and Millages

Supervisor Walls noted that in 2000 the state of Michigan projected how much state shared revenue we would have between 2001 and 2005, and the projection was that we would have an increase in state shared revenue of almost \$268,000.00. Instead there was an actual loss of \$268,000.00. Interest earned according to the audit in 2001 was \$140,000.00, and in 2005 our interest in the General Fund was \$34,000.00. In looking at the activity of the Building/Planning Department from the latter part of last year, things dropped off and have not yet picked up at a time when typically business does pick up. Our property tax revenue increase has been held to the rate of inflation. Supervisor Walls said in the handout regarding taxable values and millage rates, he tried to give an estimate of 2005 property taxes generated using the taxable value to the General Fund and to the Library. It states that the taxable value cannot increase faster than the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less. However, the assessed value can continue to increase at the rate of market. If there were no Proposal A and no Headlee the General Fund would have generated in 2005 over \$1.1 million versus \$630,000.00 and the Library Fund \$393,000.00.

Regarding the Treasurer's Report provided, the General Fund balance of \$632,000.00 is unallocated. That \$632,000 two years ago was just over 1 million dollars. The Library Fund balance and the Parks & Rec. Fund balances are up from two years ago. Shiawassee is down somewhat.

Supervisor Walls noted that the Township Board recently amended the General Fund Budget and we assumed about \$100,000.00 less use of Appropriation Prior Fund balance so we should be down to approximately \$500,000.00 by the end of this year. There have been staff cuts made, the most recent in the Building Department. Outsourcing of Human Relations, Payroll and Assessing have been discussed but no decisions have been made as of yet. Supervisor Walls said we are currently negotiating a franchise renewal with Comcast for cable, which expires in December. They have agreed to continue franchise fees as they currently are, but they are concerned about competition.

In regard to the Library Fund, Mrs. Forst stated that the budget is pretty much the same as 2004. Mrs. Gruber noted that since moving in the building almost four years ago the staffing levels have remained almost constant with the exception of a couple of part time people. However, the programs have grown in numbers so much and also the volume in circulation has more than doubled, and the equipment is almost four years old.

In regard to the Parks Budget, Mr. Parke noted that they are struggling also. There are issues with the rental home in Shiawassee with the State having stepped in, and they are no longer permitted to rent out the property. They also intended to hire a ranger for Shiawassee, whom they found, and she will live in the house in exchange for ranger services. There is an additional issue with respect to the smaller home and they are working with the state to resolve that issue.

Clerk Strole said in regard to cost cuts, we have been looking at anything and everything right down to cutting out paying for coffee which is \$1,200 per year. Revising the 401(k) is already in consideration. Supplies are under review as well as revising the life insurance policies that the Township pays for. Clerk Strole said, collectively, these things amount to thousands and thousands of dollars.

Supervisor Walls noted that the Fire Fund is the only fund looking decent at this time. There is an architect working on the expansion of Station #2, which the Board hopes will come in around \$800,000.00 or less.

Supervisor Walls said, in his opinion, what we do for millage should be done for millage all at the same time in August. Supervisor Walls said the Police millage does not expire until December 31, 2007, but if we don't ask now we would have to go to the 2008 election, and if something happens in 2008, we lose 75% to 80% of our police force.

Clerk Strole noted that what is certain to be on the ballot in November is a constitutional amendment that would establish annual minimum funding increases guaranteed for public schools, community colleges, universities and independent non-profit colleges. That means that is a guaranteed increase and everything else will go down.

Mrs. Baker asked if the Township Board ever gave consideration to endowments as an alternative source of revenue? Supervisor Walls said he doesn't know much about it but it is an option to consider.

Supervisor Walls reiterated that it is abundantly clear we must look at ourselves to fund what we will do to earn more as state shared revenue will no longer be a major source of funding.

Rather than looking to a General Fund millage increase, Ms. Rollins said residents are more likely to vote for a specific use millage. Ms. Gruber added that the Library needs an additional operating millage. An additional .5 mills would enable the library to add one full time and three part time staff and contribute \$61,000 to the Township for operation of the Civic Center.

Commissioner Hyer stated that a .25 or .3 Shiawassee millage was needed, but chairperson Parke's thought it should wait until 2008.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Walls adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Collin W. Walls, Township Supervisor

Nancy Strole, Township Clerk