

August 3, 2015

MINUTES FOR WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Emergency Services Special Assessment Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Supervisor Deming.

Those present were Supervisor Deming, Clerk Fritz, Treasurer Munn and Trustees Thole and Bennett. 23 citizens were also present.

Supervisor Deming gave a quick explanation as to why the township needs this special assessment. The state of Michigan does not require the township to have a fire department, but we all know we need the service. SKCFA was not planned out in the beginning to allow for maintenance and upkeep for the fire department. Wakeshma only has 60-80 runs a year, and although this does not seem like a large number, we cannot afford not to have fire service. The township does not have the money to fix the roads as well as provide fire service.

A millage will be on the spring ballot. If it passes, it will include personal property as well as real property. This means Enbridge will be contributing a large amount to the money needed for the department and the amount paid by citizens will be less than what will be paid in the 2015 winter assessment. If the millage passes, then each year, the Township Board will vote no on the special assessment. The township will be paying approximately \$66,000/year for the fire authority.

A citizen asked about having people pay per run, thus making the authority self-funded. He pointed out that insurance would pay for most people, and others would pay out of pocket. Supervisor Deming said he would bring it up at the fire board meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Legally municipalities can charge per run, but when you have a joint authority, it becomes difficult. If we have to go to small claims court, your fees and costs take away from your income.

A citizen commented that 1.85mils is too high and wants an audit. It was pointed out that the authority has an audit every year. The authority has 8 trucks in its fleet. They need a depreciation schedule for the equipment. They also need to look into grants.

Attorney Rolfe explained that the "indefinite" term was used in the special assessment as to make it less costly to redo the assessment if it is needed in the future.

Another citizen stated that if you look at your tax bill, you do not pay that much to the township and the township is hurting. Like it or not, the money has to come from somewhere.

Supervisor Deming recommended that Attorney Rolfe read through the special assessment before roll call was taken on a resolution to adopt the special assessment. Roll call was as follows: Thole: Nay, Fritz: Yay, Deming: Yay, Munn: Yay, Bennett: Yay. The resolution passed.

Supervisor Deming made a motion to adjourn the special assessment meeting at 8:45pm. Treasurer Munn supported.

Supervisor Deming called the August Township Board Meeting to order at 8:46pm.