

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Special Session on May 22, 2012, at 7:00 pm, at 2090 Ferry Road, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305.

1. Chairperson Nadine Daugherty called the Special Session to order at 7:00 pm.
2. All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Mr. Hodson called the roll with Board Members Scott Bryant, Mike Pittman and Nadine Daugherty being present. In addition to Township Administrator Barry Tiffany zoning Compliance and Planning Officer Cara Tilford, others recognized were Liz White and Jim Froelich.
4. Levy Presentation

Mrs. Daugherty turned the meeting over to Mr. Tiffany for a power point presentation of the problems facing the Road Department and our need for a Levy. The meeting was informal with questions posed at will from the attendees seats. The entire presentation is attached giving reasons for the need of a Levy and potential scenarios of levies that could be placed on the ballot this fall.

After the presentation Mr. Pittman said our labor costs are in line and no additional employees have been added to the Road Department for nine years. He said we are having problems with material cost such as asphalt, salt, propane, electric and so on. These are costs we cannot control. He said we are trying to keep up with inflation. Mr. Pittman said we have not asked for new money for 16 years.

Jim Froelich asked, regarding a comment from Mr. Tiffany during the presentation, how does a 0.8 mil levy passed in 1998 have an equivalent of 0.56 mil today? Mr. Tiffany said that is a very complicated and good question. He said due to the complicity of our tax regulations he could not give him a detailed answer, but basically the original levy generates a fixed amount based on the valuation of the Township at the time of the levy. Over a period the population and valuation generating that amount of money change and the equivalent millage is reduced. He said replacement levies update the valuation and the millage becomes current to today's valuation which is about 345 million.

Mr. Pittman said we have also added several additional miles of Township roads to maintain since the original levy was passed. Mr. Tiffany said when roads were built in 1996 the standards were lower. There have been changes in construction standards by the County. For example, where utilities cross under the roads in housing developments the subsoil's were not required to be compacted as they are today. As a result, we have problems in several developments with these areas sinking.

Mrs. Daugherty asked Mr. Tiffany to comment on the Township's loss of revenue from the State. Mr. Tiffany said we have lost our Tangible Personal Property Tax (C.A.T.) and our Utilities deregulation reimbursements. He said this came to around 32 to 34 thousand dollars for the Road Department.

Mr. Bryant said he was interested in public opinion. He said we listed three choices in the presentation and we need to do something. Obviously doing nothing is not good. We therefore can either eke along as we have been or look for an increase to fix the problem. He said he is interested in comments from the audience why the last levy failed and what we need to do. He said our roads are the number one responsibility of the Township. Mr. Bryant said we acknowledge our taxes are among the highest.

Liz White said when she went to the polls last spring she could not believe the levy was not on the ballot. She said it is sad it wasn't because it will be a big election this fall. Ms. White suggested we go for a renewal this fall and for an increase next spring or fall. She said we had a better chance to band-aid over and go for the increase later. She said she hears people say they won't vote for additional taxes no matter what it is.

Jim Froelich asked if the 188 thousand loss of the current levy would be a full year's loss. Mr. Tiffany said if we wait until the spring we can't collect until the next year. Mr. Bryant asked if there were any other thoughts why the levy failed.

An unidentified lady said she votes no on any additional taxes and can't afford to do so even if I know there is a problem.

An unidentified gentleman said a renewal is the most comfortable way to go. He said if the Bush tax cuts don't get reinstated people will be hit with additional Federal Taxes. He also asked what would be the first order of business if more money were generated. Mr. Tiffany responded there are many projects that are being put off. Little Sugarcreek needs to be prepped for later topcoat. Conference needs redone and blind spots removed on curves. Carpenter road has a lot of base failure near S. Alpha and will also need to be resurfaced. Mr. Tiffany said Carpenter needs to be squared with S. Alpha. He said we already have the easements but the project from Dearborn Estates to S. Alpha would be approximately one million dollars. Mr. Tiffany said we also have several bad subdivision streets.

Jim Froelich said he was mostly worried about snow removal and having enough salt money after repairs. Mr. Froelich made some calculations and said \$5.80 per month for him sounded very reasonable compared to the annual \$27.00 per \$100,000.00 as mentioned earlier as the cost of the levy.

Mr. Pittman asked Mr. Tiffany to review the guidelines for our salt austerity program. Mr. Tiffany responded that with 3 inches or less snowfall they would salt only the main thorough fares until after the event. Mr. Froelich said he had problems last year with a 2 inch snowfall and was not a fan of the austerity program.

Liz White said Mr. Froelich was right that it didn't sound like much if looked at monthly, but she feared people will only see increase and won't vote for it.

Mr. Bryant asked those present how they viewed the condition of our roads. Mrs. White said she knows they are not in good condition but has not had any problems with them yet. She says one of our problems is that people don't know which roads are Township and which are Greene Counties.

Mr. Bryant asked Mr. Froelich how he would rate our roads from A to F. Mr. Froelich said he would rate the rural roads a B.

Mrs. Daugherty said we have always had compliments regarding our snow removal. Mr. Pittman said our problem now is that we can't keep up with road maintenance.

Liz White said we definitely cannot lose any money. The Fire and Police Departments have passed several levies but there has been nothing for the roads. Mr. Pittman said our problem is that our road service has been pretty good.

Cara asked about concurrent levies. Mr. Bryant said if two were put on he thought it would almost guarantee failure of the increase. Mrs. Daugherty said the roads are not really in bad shape yet so people don't complain. Mr. Tiffany said if we have a bad winter of freezing and thawing their condition will change substantially.

Jim Froelich said he liked the idea of a renewal this fall and an increase this spring. He thought we need more information out on what it costs and what we get.

Mrs. Daugherty asked Mr. Tiffany when a decision had to be made. Mr. Tiffany said in the first part of July. Mr. Bryant said he would like another session like this. He said the exchange has been very helpful. Mrs. Daugherty suggested we put out information regarding the levy on NIXEL. Mrs. White said we have to know what we're getting for what we pay.

Mr. Pittman said those here said they favor a renewal. Mr. Bryant said if we don't do something our B roads will become F roads.

Jim Froelich asked about a continual levy. Mr. Tiffany said, speaking as a resident, he always liked the opportunity every 5 years to say if he liked what he was getting or not.

Mr. Bryant said we have the opportunity for another meeting. Mrs. Daugherty agreed. Mrs. White said she likes the quarterly news letter and thought it would be the best promotion for the levy. Mr. Bryant said one of the enhancements on the new Website will be the capability to send e-mail notifications to all citizens who sign up for it. He said we are working on communications with the residents.

Mr. Pittman moved to adjourn. Mrs. Daugherty seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Bryant – Yes
Mr. Pittman - Yes
Mrs. Daugherty – Yes

Theodore L. Hodson, Fiscal Officer