

**Minutes**  
**McHenry Township**  
**Budget Hearing**  
**May 23, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.**

Supervisor Adams called the Town Budget meeting to order at time posted 6:30 p.m. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Board members attending meeting: Amy Mercurio, Neal Schepler, Gary Barla and Craig Adams, also attending were Clerk Marsha Nelson, and Road Commissioner James Condon, along with one resident of Township Cliff Leegrad of Wonder Lake.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Leegrad had several questions and comments about Township budget. (Comments and questions attached).

**1. Concerned about capital upgrades:**

- a. Upgrade lighting to LED's
  - i. *Supervisor Adams said they would be doing more investigation as far as new LED's is concerned.*
- b. Why append over \$9,000 on damaged tables and chairs?
  - i. *Supervisor explained that most of the tables and chairs that the seniors use in the Senior Center need upgrading. This does not mean all tables and chairs are to be purchased at the same time, this will be done through the year.*
- c. Replacing two baseball backstops:
  - i. *This is being done for safety reasons as this is not softball, its baseball and balls are hit harder and higher.*
- d. Reconfiguring Mary's reception area,
  - i. *This is in the assessors' budget.*
- e. Announcement booth/storage shed.
  - i. *Storage shed falling apart, announcement booth for ball games as we host several during summer. Helps Township.*
- f. Privacy fence around AC unit.
  - i. *Safety reasons protect against mowing.*
- g. Pavilion and picnic tables.
  - i. *Safety at ball fields, in case of storms.*
- h. *Supervisor Adams also reminded all that the Township has not raised levy in over six years and is trying to keep reserve to cover major problems that may/will occur in the future.*

**Motion by Gary Barla to approve 2016-2017 Town Budgets, seconded by Neal Schepler.**

**Voice vote:**

Amy Mercurio – Aye

Gary Barla - Aye

Neal Schepler - Aye

Craig Adams –Aye

All aye motion carries

**Motion by Amy Mercurio to adjourn, seconded by Neal Schepler.**

**All in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

  
Marsha Nelson – Township Clerk

*Question - Cliff S. - Wonder Lab*

Town Fund-

First, I would say that it would be nice if end of year figures and budget figures would be more open and available to the public – especially to those that do attend township meetings. I don't think we should have to make a special trip to this office and bother the supervisor to request a copy of the reports on the money that you have spent and want to spend and levy taxes on.

Looking at the past two years budgetary request versus actual money expended – it look like we have over-budgeted between \$200-\$300,000 per year – not terrible but it is over 10%, and this excess taxpayer money just goes toward increasing your cash reserves.

I would question some of the capital upgrades that you have in this years budget:

1. It looks like you want to spend \$31,600 to upgrade lighting to LED's. I would be concerned as to the energy savings payback on these – what is the ROI?

What kind of lights are being replaced in these programs – are they all incandescent lights?

Have you upgraded your home with this type of lighting? If not, why are you doing it here?

Would it not be prudent to wait a few years for the LED prices to fall? Or replace at burnout.

2. Why are you spending \$9,500 on damaged tables and chairs? Why and how did all these tables and chairs get damaged? Why would you not replace them as they are damaged under your maintenance funding rather than running out and buying all new under a capital program?

3. Why are you wanting to replace 2 perfectly good baseball field backstops for \$43,000?

4. Is it really necessary to reconfigure Mary's reception area for \$5,000?

5. Spending \$35,000 on an announcement booth /storage shed – is this really needed?

6. Why are we replacing washroom doors at the upper park for \$2000? Can they be painted?

7. Why do we need a privacy fence for outside AC units for \$2500?

8. A new picnic pavilion and 5 new picnic tables would be nice to add but do we need to spend \$30,000 for this.

9. Repainting a sign for \$1,000 – this must be a very big sign.

10. So – I am just looking at this from a taxpayer viewpoint –You need to ask yourself - Do we really need these items and improvements or would they be just nice to have?

It looks to me like someone just went around creating a Christmas shopping list so they could go on a spending spree.

Capital outlay requests went from \$247K requested last year – where you only spent \$210K of it and then banked the rest (17%) to this year's increased request of \$291K. –

Do trustees of the township – question any of these budgetary requests?

Do you spend money like this within your own household?

The township's tax levy is based on this budget and I think it needs to be scrutinized better than is being done

You wonder why taxpaying residents are concerned about the money that the township spends – I think this is one of the examples.