

August 13, 2002

The regular meeting of the Birch Run Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Earl Schlegel.

There were approximately 12 people in the public in attendance.

Board members present: Earl Schlegel Supervisor, Debbie Trevino Treasurer, Jeff Putnam, Joanne Strahm, Ed Magnus, Dave Stewart Trustees.

Board members absent: Amy Cook Clerk.

The regular meeting was recessed at 7:01.

The Public Hearing on police protection was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment:

Various members of the public voiced their concerns about the proposed police protection. The concerns were as follows:

- Why does the board feel we need police protection?
- This is a matter that should be voted upon by the people.
- Will bids be taken? Bids taken, awarded to the lowest bidder.
- Visibility of police will not stop crime.
- Paying for police protection will not guarantee that the police will be available when they are needed.
- Possible cuts of state and sheriff patrols and the availability of those patrols.
- Mutual aid.
- How much will police protection cost? 24-hour protection versus 8 hour a day protection and the cost was discussed.
- Village police have responded to calls to the township because of state and sheriff unavailability.
- People who want police protection should be at the meetings.

Earl Schlegel asked for a show of hands for those who wish the board to pursue police protection.

Those in favor of police protection: 1

Those against police protection: 10

Motion by Ed Magnus supported by Dave Stewart to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Hearing adjourned 7:56 p.m.

Regular meeting reopened at 7:57 p.m.

Motion by Ed Magnus supported by Dave Stewart to approve the minutes of July 9, 2002. Motion carried 4-0. Joanne Strahm and Dave Stewart abstained.

Motion by Ed Magnus supported by Debbie Trevino to approve the minutes of July 30, 2002 special meeting. Motion fails due to lack of quorum.

Motion by Ed Magnus supported by Dave Stewart to approve the invoices totaling \$83,462.51. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: none.

The board discussed the proposed tall grass and weed ordinance. The board directed Supervisor Schlegel to narrow the verbiage in the proposed ordinance to address the specific areas of board concern.

Motion by Dave Stewart supported by Jeff Putnam to accept low bid from Keyes Trenching, Freeland, to install water lines.

Motion by Debbie Trevino supported by Jeff Putnam to amend Resolution 2002-06 verbiage and formula. Motion carried 5-1.

Resolution 2002-06 amendments:

Paragraph 1:

From: The taxpayer must complete an application for a (1) year hardship reduction or exemption and submit it to the Birch Run Township Board of Review during their annual meeting in March of each year as required by Michigan Statute.

To: The taxpayer must complete an application for a (1) year hardship reduction or exemption and submit it to the Birch Run Township Board of Review at their March, July or December meeting.

A. Hardship Reductions:

Add #5 taxable value definition. Change Definition #5 to #6, definition #6 to #7, add #8 definition of Poverty threshold.

B. Hardship Reduction Categories:

1. eliminate verbiage : Household income multiplied by 3.5% plus \$1200 divided by municipal tax rate (millage rate) equals maximum assessed value. Actual assessed value minus maximum assessed value equals hardship reduction.
2. eliminated.

3. eliminate: Household income multiplied by 3.5% equals, income for taxes (IFT) divided by municipal tax rate (millage rate) equals maximum assessment.

C. Exemptions: Listed as Total Exemption. Partial Exemption added to read: the Board of Review may also grant partial exemptions. The partial exemption is for individuals who may qualify for total exemption but may have shown that their situation is such that partial relief is necessary. Example of situations that may determine if an individual could qualify for partial exemption is as follows: divorce, death of spouse, illness, loss of employment, disability, workman's compensation.

Verbiage added:

It is important to note that these guidelines are only guidelines for the Board of Review. According to Michigan Compiled Law 211.7u Subsection 5, the Board of Review shall follow the rules and regulations set by the Township Board by they can deviate from the guidelines set if they feel it is deemed necessary. In which case, the Board of Review must communicate their reasons in writing to the claimant.

Mismanagement of finances does not qualify an individual for an exemption,

Individuals who are non-senior citizens or on state aid must submit in writing to the Board of Review their plan to re-establish themselves. Hardship exemption is not to be used as a method to avoid paying taxes. It is meant to help individuals who have a plan to help themselves.

Income Level Guidelines: new scale as presented with the exception of line 2 less than pt, should be -60% or 100%, line 3 equal pt, should be -50% or 100%.

D. Decision of Board of Review: deleted: end of last sentence: in writing on or before June 30 of each year.

Discussion was held on proposed pond at park. The board decided that a pond is not something that they would wish to pursue at this time.

Motion by Dave Stewart supported by Jeff Putnam to hire attorney Mark Mahberg for opinions on the race track expansion. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Dave Stewart supported by Ed Magnus to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:17.

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Income Level Guidelines

pt scale	%adj to tv
less than pt	-40% or 0%*
equal pt	-50% & or 0%*
pt + 2000	-45%
pt + 2001-4000	-40%
pt + 4001 - 6000	-35%
pt + 6001- 8000	-30%
pt + 8001- 10000	-25%
pt + 10001- 12000	-20%
pt + 12001- 14000	-15%
pt + 14001- 16000	-10%
pt + 16001-18000	-5%

← 60% or 100%
← 50% or 100%

* Indicates one time only exemption.

D. Decision of Board of Review

If the Birch Run Township Board of Review denies a homestead hardship reduction or exemption, the Board of Review must provide a written decision specifying the reasons for the denial. The Board must advise the property owner that they may appeal the decision to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.