

ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

April 20, 2011
O'Fallon Township
801 E. State St.
O'Fallon, IL 62269

CALL TO ORDER at 6:47 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Supervisor Gary Ahle, Highway Commissioner William Peach, Town Clerk David M. Witter, Trustees: Glenn Loyet, Jim Hursey and Kenneth Joseph; Deputy Town Clerk/Recorder Debbie Allsup, General Assistance Administrator/Recorder Sheri Heil and Recorder Susan Parkinson. Trustee Gary Hursey and Attorney Cory Easton arrived at 6:51 p.m.

Others present: Douglas Scott, Pat Judge, Vern Boeckman, Dan Bowman, Dennis Sullivan, Steve Ficker, Andrea Fohne, Debbie Fohne, Gary Fohne and Gerard Helldoerfer.

PRESENTATION OF 2011-2012 O'FALLON TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE No. 11-02

Highway Commissioner Bill Peach stated the Board has received the tentative Road District Budget with an overview of all funds along with explanations and pictures of proposed projects. A revised budget was distributed to all Board members. It contains the actual beginning balance of each fund along with any necessary adjustments.

Trustee Glenn Loyet questioned the Highway Commissioner on levying over \$563,000 (five hundred sixty-three thousand dollars) when the beginning balance is \$555,544 (five hundred fifty-five thousand five hundred and forty-four dollars). Highway Commissioner Peach responded it was due to the changes made by the Board in last years budget which prevented him from doing what he had planned. Loyet stated there was money remaining in all line items at the end of the fiscal year (beginning April 1, 2010 and ending March 31, 2011). Trustee Gary Hursey stated the Board can't control the Highway Commissioner levy but can control his budget. A discussion regarding the levy followed.

Trustee Kenneth Joseph questioned the Highway Commissioner on the reason \$225,000 (two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) budgeted for Capital Outlay-Equipment in the General Road Fund (otherwise known as the Road and Bridge Fund). Peach stated he planned to purchase a new truck at a cost of approximately \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) and a new tractor with mower at an approximate cost of \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars). A discussion followed regarding the current condition and repairs of the truck to be replaced along with the history of repairs done on the tractor. Trustee Joseph asked the Highway Commissioner if he would locally bid out the purchase of new equipment. Peach stated he would unless they are available by state

bid. Following the discussion it was the consensus of the Board to eliminate a new tractor at a cost of \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) from the General Road Fund (Road and Bridge Fund) Capital Outlay-Equipment line item. The amount of \$125,000 (one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) will be allocated for the purchase of a new truck and other equipment.

Trustee Glenn Loyet questioned the Contractual Services-Legal Services line item being increased from \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) last year to \$35,000 (thirty five thousand dollars) this year. Attorney Cory Easton stated \$35,000 (thirty five thousand dollars) would not be much if the Road District would be involved in a lawsuit. The Board continued to discuss individual line items in the Road & Bridge Fund under Maintenance-Contractual Services and Maintenance-Commodities.

Trustee Loyet questioned Highway Commissioner Peach about the Capital Outlay-Buildings & Property Improvements line item increasing from \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) to \$75,000 (seventy five thousand dollars) when there was only \$832 (eight hundred and thirty-two dollars) expended in the previous fiscal year. Peach responded he had planned to make improvements to store the snow equipment and to be prepared in case a new roof is needed. Trustee Kenneth Joseph suggested decreasing the Building & Property Improvements to \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) as it was last year in 2 (two) separate line items. It was the consensus of the Board to reduce the Capital Outlay-Buildings and Property Improvement line item by \$45,000 (forty-five thousand dollars) leaving \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) to be used accordingly.

Highway Commissioner Bill Peach stated the funds budgeted for Capital Outlay-Land Acquisition will be needed and possibly increased in the future to allow for a sufficient amount required as the Rieder Road project progresses. A discussion followed regarding the funding involved in the project.

Supervisor Gary Ahle suggested moving forward to the Permanent Road Fund. Trustee Loyet noted the Personnel-Salaries line item had decreased from \$150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand dollars) to \$125,000 (one hundred twenty five thousand dollars). Peach responded the reduction was due to the amount remaining from the previous year. The discussion moved to Contractual Services-General Engineering Services where Loyet inquired about the \$320,000 (three hundred twenty thousand dollars) being budgeted. Peach stated at the bottom of the page in Capital Outlay notes it states that the funds are reserved for the Rieder Road project according to a 5 (five) year plan needed to finance it. He also intends to widen Borchers Lane in which engineering will be required. Trustee Joseph stated he has concerns over the amount of money being used to date for the engineering of the Rieder Road project. According to Peach, the engineering work required is expected to cost approximately \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) before the Rieder Road project is completed. Trustee Gary Hursey questioned the Highway Commissioner on the length of Rieder Road we currently maintain. Peach responded it is a little over 2 (two) miles.

Pat Judge, of Gonzales Companies, LLC, addressed the Board regarding the engineering on Rieder Road. According to an independent consultant firm hired by the City of O'Fallon, the traffic count is expected to reach between 9,000 (nine thousand) to 11,000 (eleven thousand) vehicles per day after the interchange is completed. According to Judge, the road as it is would not be able to handle the volume. Adding the bridge in its

current condition is in violation of IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) standards. The entire project from the interchange up to Highway 50, including the railroad bridges, is expected to exceed \$10,000,000 (ten million dollars). The engineering currently being done is needed to apply for funding through the ICC (Illinois Commerce Commission) and eventually federal funding. A discussion followed regarding the future plans for the area.

The discussion switched to the Borchers Lane Improvement project. Pat Judge stated the plans are to widen, resurface and improve the drainage to IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) standards along the roadway. Highway Commissioner Peach has requested the engineering be done using the existing road, whenever possible, to help keep the cost down. Trustee Gary Hursey requested the engineering firm, Gonzales Companies, provide the Board with an update on the progression of each project (Rieder Road and Borchers Lane) on a quarterly basis. Pat Judge agreed to provide such a report.

The Board continued to discuss the line items within the Permanent Road Fund. Trustee Kenneth Joseph questioned Highway Commissioner Peach on the new line item labeled Yearly Emergency Road Maintenance with a budgeted amount of \$125,382 (one hundred twenty-five thousand three hundred eighty-two dollars). Peach responded the Board changed last year's budget to specifically state the roads to which any improvements could be performed on. Trustee Kenneth Joseph stated there was plenty of money budgeted to repair roads in an emergency situation if public safety is at risk. Emphasizing the condition of Weil Road, in which he believes, is dangerous to all who travel it. Trustee Glenn Loyet suggested a line item transfer of up to 10% (ten percent) of the total expenditures for the fund could have been done to provide for such a situation. A discussion followed. Trustee Gary Hursey suggested reducing the Yearly Emergency Road Maintenance line item to \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars) adding the remaining amount to the Rieder Road project. Trustee Joseph stated he would agree to the changes if the Highway Commissioner agreed to fix the culverts on Weil Road, Hagemann Road and any other road within the Township where public safety is at risk. Highway Commissioner Peach agreed, stating it was already on the list to do. Trustee Loyet stated he would not be voting in favor of the Road District Budget regardless of any changes. Trustee Jim Hursey agreed to move the funds as suggested by Trustee Gary Hursey. It was the majority of the Board which agreed to leave \$25,382 (twenty-five thousand three hundred eighty-two dollars) in the Permanent Road Fund Yearly Emergency Road Maintenance line item and move \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) to the Rieder Road Improvement line item making the total \$350,000 (three hundred fifty thousand dollars) for the project.

Upon reviewing the Construction or Repairs of Bridges at Joint Expense of County Funds (otherwise known as the Bridge Fund) Budget the Board did not make any changes.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Debbie Fohne inquired about the status of College Road in relationship to the Township. She heard there are plans to make a bike trail along the abandoned road, over Silver Creek and ending at McKendree College. Her concerns are for the property owned by her father which is currently being farmed along with a spot for hunting. Highway Commissioner Peach stated the status remains the same as before, an abandoned road. It

is due to it not being a through road and flooding issues on the dirt road. Peach added numerous people have searched for records on the abandonment but have not found anything to date. A discussion followed regarding the history of the bridge. Highway Commissioner Peach stated he was aware of the bike trail but refused to have any involvement in it.

Mr. Doug Scott expressed concern over the costs associated with the Rieder Road project. He also questioned the timeline and location of the interchange, stating if the location is unknown, how can the road can be engineered. Pat Judge stated the location is known but to his knowledge, there is nothing in writing on when it will happen. It is his professional opinion that the interchange will eventually happen based upon the reports and studies being done by the County (St. Clair County). The engineering of Rieder Road being done by Gonzalez Companies (hired by the O'Fallon Township Road District) stops short of the northern leg so it will not interfere with the interchange. A discussion followed regarding jurisdiction of the northern leg.

Mr. Vern Boeckman stated he has attended 4 (four) Road District Budget Hearings and continues to be disappointed over the large amount of money being carried over. He added that he believes it is the Boards responsibility to "take the fat out of the budget". He notices the Board does try but would like to see more. Trustee Gary Hursey expressed concern over what would happen if the Road District Budget is not approved. It would completely stop all services provided by the Road District. Vern Boeckman stated his concern is over the Highway Commissioner failing to fix the problem on Weil Road. He believes the school buses that travel the road on a daily basis is putting them at risk. A discussion followed regarding the Board having any control of the Highway Commissioner.

Dennis Sullivan, engineer for the City of O'Fallon, stated his frustration with the Highway Commissioner on refusing to sign an authorization. The city has received a federal grant for the reconstruction of the intersection at Seven Hills Road and Old Vincennes Trail. The city has jurisdiction of 3 (three) legs and the 4th (fourth) falls under the jurisdiction of the Township Road District, requiring authorization from the Highway Commissioner to proceed. Sullivan stated they are not seeking any financial support, only a signature at this time. He believes the Township Board has the right to a jurisdictional transfer according to his research into the state statutes, although IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) believes such a transfer can only be done by the Highway Commissioner. The city has all the funding needed but can not begin the project without the Highway Commissioner's signature. Trustee Gary Hursey questioned Highway Commissioner Peach on the refusal to sign the authorization so the City can begin. Peach stated he has spoke with several Township residents who do not believe the project will relieve the congestion as stated by the City of O'Fallon. Adding, he has only seen traffic backup in the morning, prior to school starting and after school lets out, occurring for approximately 10 (ten) to 15 (fifteen) minutes each time. A discussion followed regarding the growth of the area which would add more volume to the intersection. Sullivan stated the design project has been reviewed by local, state and federal engineers along with the Gateway Counsel of Government; all have approved the design except the Highway Commissioner. Supervisor Gary Ahle asked if Highway Commissioner Peach would reconsider approving the project. Peach stated it was a possibility. Since the issue does not pertain to the Road District budget hearing, the conversation will continue during the Highway Commissioners meeting.

APPROVAL OF 2011-2012 O'FALLON TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE No. 11-02

A motion was made by Supervisor Gary Ahle to approve the 2011-2012 O'Fallon Township Road District Budget and Appropriation Ordinance No. 11-02 with the changes noted below and seconded by Trustee Kenneth Joseph. Roll Call. Loyet - nay; J. Hursey - aye; Ahle - aye; Joseph - aye; G. Hursey - nay. Motion Carried.

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Reduced</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
<u>General Road Fund</u>			
Maintenance			
Capital Outlay			
Buildings & Property Improvements	\$75,000	\$45,000	\$30,000
Equipment	\$225,000	\$100,000	\$125,000

The above reduced amounts (totaling \$145,000) were placed into the ending balance of the General Road Fund.

Permanent Road Fund

Capital Improvements			
Yearly Emergency Road Maintenance	\$125,382	\$100,000	\$25,382

The above reduced amount of \$100,000 was placed into Capital Improvements Rieder Road previously budgeted at \$250,000 making the total line item in the amount of \$350,000.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Jim Hursey to adjourn the Road District Budget Hearing and seconded by Trustee Gary Hursey. Motion Carried.

The Road District Budget Hearing adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

David M. Witter
Town Clerk