

Chairman Jim Burns called the April 3, 2018 Public Hearing meeting of the Hinckley Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Trustees Jim Burns and Ray Schulte, Fiscal Officer Martha Catherwood, 7 residents and 2 reporters. Trustee Lutzko arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Burns stated that the reason for the public hearing is to consider the levy of an annual motor vehicle license tax, pursuant to R.C. § 4504.18, upon the operation of motor vehicles on the public roads and highways in the unincorporated territory of Hinckley Township. The tax shall be at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) annually per motor vehicle on all motor vehicles the owners, which reside in the unincorporated area of Hinckley Township.

Mr. Burns thanked the audience for attending, asking those individuals who would like to speak to do so respectfully, to stay on topic and to limit their time to four minutes. He said that the time restraint might be increased depending on the number of individuals who speak.

Resident Gareth Robison inquired as to whether increases in new homes would increase tax dollars coming in. He indicated that he feels there are a number of new taxes on residents citing the recent fire levy approval. He asked if he had 6-vehicles, would there be a \$5.00 tax applied to all of them. Mr. Burns explained that current levies are at a set amount and when additional homes are built there are no increases in funds received by the township, rather, an individual's tax liability sees a slight reduction. He indicated that all vehicles would have a \$5.00 tax assessed. Mr. Robison feels this tax is being forced upon the residents and he feels they are taxed enough.

Mr. Burns stated that all but three Medina County townships, one being Hinckley, have had similar motor vehicle levies in place for decades. He indicated that due to our decaying roadways, additional revenue is necessary. Fiscal Officer Catherwood explained that several years ago there were significant reductions in Local Government Funding from the State of Ohio. These cuts have reduced the amount of road maintenance funding the township has available.

Mr. Schulte added that another option for repairs is a road assessment that would only financially affect residents of the subdivision that requires the repairs.

Resident Terry Walrath stated that the numbers he has seen would generate approximately \$47,000.00. He asked as to the point of using this small amount of money to repair what is estimated to be in excess of a \$3 million problem.

Mr. Burns replied that with the help of the Medina County Engineers Office he is pulling together a long-term plan to address road maintenance. Mr. Schulte cited the desire to not put a road levy on the ballot; he said another option might be OPWC loans and/or grants. Mr. Wallrath asked if a levy is a logical option. Mr. Burns responded that options are limited. Mr. Schulte added that these funds could be used to service OPWC annual loan debt.

Mr. Wallrath said that it does not appear that there is enough money to do what is needed to be done. Mr. Wallrath returned to the audience.

Resident Chuck Naegle (Mattingly Road) stated that he was shocked to see so few people in attendance and feels the proposal is taxation without representation. Mr. Burns informed Mr. Naegle that the hearing was held with the proper public notice. Mr. Naegle stated that twenty-five years ago the same proposal was put to Hinckley Township voters and it was voted down, He is fed up with being taxed and said that he often undertakes ditch maintenance on his road with his own equipment. He feels that township expenditures should be reduced and more funds be put toward roads.

A discussion was held regarding the loss of Local Government Funds due actions at the State level. Mr. Burns stated that what happens at the State is the responsibility of the citizenry and suggested residents contact their State Representative. Mr. Naegle felt that the Township should go to the State for additional funding for road maintenance. Mr. Burns informed Mr. Naegle that this year the Township is receiving a \$400,000.00 OPWC loan at 0% financing with the assistance of Medina County. Mr. Naegle expressed his opinion that there is not enough testing and oversight by the township and county when new roads are installed. He cited his own experience working on the construction of Brookside Estates decades ago. Mr. Schulte stated that Hinckley Township upgraded its subdivision standards several years ago in response to installation concerns and we are paying for the sins of the past.

Ms. Lutzko stated that the Township has applied for several road maintenance grants over the past several years, and received some, as well as zero-interest loans. Unfortunately, not all grant applications are successful because other townships also apply and there is a limited pot of funds available. This is one way to increase funding, and to do so in a way that imposes a relatively small, periodic tax that is easier to pay over time. It is like putting money in your piggy bank to save for a future large purchase. She indicated that at some point the trustees might have to look at a road levy in the future , but not at this time.

All the trustees agreed that a quality inspection process is necessary to assure proper compliance with the township's subdivision standards. Mr. Roman Dohanik (Stony Hill Road) asked who would make the final decision on the tax proposal. Mr. Burns replied the trustees would have a vote sometime after the second public hearing. If residents opposed the decision of the trustees, there is a referendum process.

Ms. Lutzko acknowledged the public comments indicating thatp the residents in attendance have expressed a desire for the township to utilize opportunities for State funding, noting that the Board has and will continue to do so. Mr. Burns added that he is evaluating current funding, but feels that this measure will help.

Mr. Robison asked how many vehicles are registered in the township. Mr. Burns estimated that the number would equal approximately \$47,000 in additional funding. Mr. Burns stated that the trustees are trying to be efficient in spending taxpayer dollars.

At this time, there being no further comments from the attendees the trustees unanimously moved to adjourn the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Meeting minutes approved by:

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