

Hamilton Township Public Hearing #2 for Fire Contract Special Assessment

Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N. Rodgers, Harrison, MI
Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Mickie Duby, Valdine Erskine Residents: 16 Staff: 2
CALLED TO ORDER: by Wright at 6:30 P.M, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was called to review Notice #2, establishing the Special Assessment district, for the Fire Contract Special Assessment. No other business was discussed.

Questions from a new group of residents were asked and answered. Erskine again reviewed a white board chart of 10 years of payments to the City of Harrison for the fire contract, showing the cost of fire service nearly doubled in 10 years. She explained the township has always paid for fire service without collecting a tax. Exhibit A, the tax roll, and Exhibits B and C, preliminary estimate of cost of the service were also reviewed. Erskine explained the township is NOT seeking to build a fire hall or purchase fire equipment. The assessment is solely to continue paying the City of Harrison. The township is seeking \$35 per parcel, per year to be collected on the winter tax bill. The special assessment will be reviewed annually by the Supervisor and will expire in 5 years. At that time the township would need to seek a renewal or other means of collecting funds.

Residents questioned the math and numbers used to illustrate the cost. Erskine explained they were taken directly from current and previous year's contracts with the City of Harrison. Supporting documents were displayed as, Exhibits B and C. Residents were encouraged to review the exhibits.

Erskine circulated a paper tablet, requesting that those who opposed the Special Assessment record their name, address, phone number, and reason for opposition. It was noted that 2 letters of opposition were received via postal mail. Also received was a letter of 'appeal' to the City of Harrison, for their increase handed down to the Township. Undeliverable mail was counted as opposition for the purpose of calculating the 10% opposition. One person opposed the special assessment tax roll during the meeting and their opposition was documented on the tablet.

ADJOURNED: Conway made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m., supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**