

Public Hearing  
Eagle Township Board  
March 24, 2001

1. **Call to Order** - The public hearing of the Eagle Township Board was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Supervisor Morris at the Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan Street, Eagle, MI.

Members present were: Supervisor David Morris, Clerk Wendy Simmons, Treasurer Patti Schafer, Trustee Stephen Colby, Trustee Patricia Hazen, County Commissioner Sara Clark Pierson and Deputy Clerk Jane Korroch. Also present were: Commissioner Sara Clark Pierson, Fire Chief Casey Godlweski and Casey Race of Community Newspapers as well as approximately 40 township residents and interested persons.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Supervisor Morris offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Bob Criag** - Mr. Craig, Candidate for 86<sup>th</sup> District State Representative, introduced himself and noted his background. He offered a summary of current manufactured housing taxation and detailed the three-step plan he would offer if elected to this position. Further, he pledged to work with Township officials, school superintendents, and local districts to develop a comprehensive plan to resolve this issue.

4. **Thanks** - Supervisor Morris offered thanks to several individuals for various projects in the Township including the successful tire recycling project and moving the recycling bin moved from Jerry's Sunoco to Eagle Inn.

5. **Public Hearing, Clark Road Special Assessment** - Supervisor Morris reviewed procedure for the proposed Clark Road improvement project. There were no questions from the public regarding this project.

6. **Close of Hearing, Clark Road Special Assessment** - Supervisor Morris closed the public hearing for the Clark Road Special Assessment.

7. **Public Hearing, Annual Special Assessment District** - Supervisor Morris opened the special assessment district public hearing immediately following the closing of the Clark Road Special Assessment hearing.

He reviewed that under PA33 the township can assess up to 10 mills. The Board has never assessed more than 1 mill. Currently 1 mill equals about \$65,000, however, emergency services cost approximately \$90,000 for FY 2000-2001. This year the proposed fire budget has increased by 30%. Supervisor Morris reviewed contractual obligations under the current fire contract. All entities have given notice to withdraw from the contract as of 12/31/01.

The Board has met with Watertown Township; they have taken the position that they need a substation near the I-96 corridor. They will be moving ahead to seek grant money to build this sub station. Currently they are uncertain if coverage will come from DeWitt or Grand Ledge, as they are in discussion with DeWitt to develop an Urban Cooperative Authority.

Also, the Board has met with the Portland Fire Department to discuss expanding the coverage they provide to Eagle Township. Currently they are covering 2 ½ sections of the Township. Portland is a strictly volunteer department. However, Supervisor Morris visited with some residents west of the village and they all expressed satisfaction with the service provided. Also, the department has done well with equipment and has purchased a new truck within the last few years. Cost of service with Portland would be considerably less than with Grand Ledge.

The City of Grand Ledge has expressed interest in forming a Fire Authority, which would have taxing power over all entities. A Cooperative Authority has no taxing authority in townships. Currently the Fire Board reviews and makes decisions but everything is hinged on the Township Board having final say.

Regardless of what the Township does in regards to coverage cost is going to be considerably more than in the past. With that in mind, Supervisor Morris stated that the Township Board will probably be asking for 1-½ mills, which will equate to \$101,800, with the Township's share of the proposed Grand Ledge operating budget being \$132,00, plus the Township's share of a pumper/tanker purchase would be approximately \$80,000. (The department has a used tanker purchased few years ago, which is no longer road worthy. Now fire department wants to purchase pumper/tanker that will also be first line vehicle and will cost approximately \$450,000. The Eagle Township Board has approved up to \$350,000.)

March 24, 2001

Mr. Jim Harsant asked about the possibility of Grand Ledge placing a substation north of the railroad tracks. Supervisor Morris stated that he spoke with John Bayless, City Manager, who stated that they could house a truck in the National Guard building on Wright Road but they have made no commitment in that regard.

Chief Godlewski wished to clarify the discussion regarding the old pumper. He stated that the department needs to look at buying equipment that is state of the art, not just what someone else has purchased. The price of the new pumper/tanker increase by \$100,000 because former Chief Cagle just spoke to a few individuals and derived the \$350,000 price. The term pumper/tanker is a generic term. It is a pumper and it is a tanker. The pumper will carry 2500 gal. of water instead of 1000 gal., tanker so that it can bring water necessary to non-hydrant areas. Chief Goldewsky indicated that there is been a 20 year plan, which would include a sub-station in Eagle Township. Further, his department has researched the two types of authorities. One has taxing power; the other is the Urban Cooperation Act, which is an inter-local government agreement with no taxing power. It would expedite the process to have cooperative authority. The Fire Board has never turned down the fire department, they are very willing to help the needs of the fire department. Chief Godlewski would like to set it up so that he doesn't have to wait so long to get approval of the fire department's budget. Chief Godlewski spoke of grant money currently available, there is a maximum \$750,000 award available in one area, with a 10% matching requirement. Chief Godlewski extolled benefits of planning ahead, rather than waiting to the last minute.

Treasurer Schafer asked if the ladder truck would fit into existing barn? Can the department put another grant together for the barn, or would Oneida have to put together grant for building.

Chief Godlewski stated that this grant wouldn't cover brick & mortar. Next year building & staffing will be included in the grant available. If the truck were purchased today it would be here in 8 months or so and it would not fit into the current barn. Chief Godlewski attended a March 12 meeting with City of DeWitt, City of Grand Ledge, and the Township of Oneida. During that meeting the City of DeWitt stated that it doesn't want a full time department or to expand coverage. Also, Townships of Riley and Olive not interested in a full time department. Chief Godlewski believes that the City of DeWitt wants to enter an authority to avoid being gobbled up by DeWitt Township. He speculates that the township is not interested in gobbling up the city because of the placement of their station. At that meeting Chief Godlewski volunteered to set up individuals into DeWitt City. Further, the City of Grand Ledge started working with Oneida on an authority as of last Thursday.

Treasurer Schafer questioned Chief Godlewski to see if he has checked to see if a township can be involved in an authority and have two fire departments. Commissioner Sara Clark Pierson says under PA7 that a township can be involved in authority & contract out services.

Mr. Ron Hodge asked if the 1-½ mills would be effective for this budget year. Also, since the Township has already given termination to Grand Ledge, if there is a surplus from 1-½ mills would it stay in Emergency Services Fund? Treasurer Schafer stated that the fund balance would show as carry over on monthly reports.

Ms. April McDaniel asked what would happen to coverage after the end of the year. Clerk Simmons informed her that no part of the township would be with out service. Treasurer Schafer stated that it is possible that Watertown will have a manned station. Also Grand Ledge may be moving into Oneida Township.

Mrs. Jo Godlewski stated their insurance coverage would go up 47% if coverage is changed to Portland. Grand Ledge's fire rating is 5, Portland's rating is 5/9. She further stated that property taxes keep going up. Also she is concerned about response time. Supervisor Morris stated that he believed the two big factors in rating are if your property is within hydrant service and if the fire department has full service staff.

Mr. Bob Little expressed his concern regarding the railroad station in regards to the location of the fire department. He wondered about receiving coverage from the Westphalia fire department from the north. Mr. Little asked about a Grand Ledge substation near the airport. Supervisor Morris reiterated his information about the possibility of housing a truck in the National Guard building. Mr. Little expressed his support of this idea.

Chief Godlewski said he would not be in favor of putting a substation just north of the railroad tracks. To be most effective, the sub-station must be well north, near I-96. He stated that Watertown would be the location of the first stub-station, which would help the department service Eagle in less time than coming from Grand Ledge.

March 24, 2001

Supervisor Morris stated that the train traffic is projected to double in the next few years.

Mr. Fred Dixon lives on Hinman Road and is concerned that his road is used as a dividing line between departments. Has high praises for Grand Ledge department and would vote to continue coverage with them.

Mr. Mike Mather asked how much 1½ mill will cost as a homeowner. Supervisor Morris stated that if a property has an assessed value is \$75,000 1½ mills will be approx. \$115, 1 mill is \$1/1000 of assessed value. Mr. Mather would like a sub-station in Eagle Township and would be in favor of paying 2 or 3 mills for adequate fire protection.

Mr. Jim Harsant wanted clarification if this millage is against taxable or assessed value? Supervisor Morris stated that it is against taxable value.

Mr. Don Moore stated that he knows costs are going up, either to fire department or insurance company. He would like to put additional money to fire department not the insurance company. He would like the money to go to Grand Ledge for upgrade.

Mary Jo G. – would like to make another statement. If you ask for a full mill in addition, it would still be \$50/year cheaper than her increase in house insurance.

Treasurer Schafer – she requested EMS bd. to increase 2 mills. That was not widely accepted by bd. Looking at the next 10 years. Our share of Grand Ledge budget would be 3 ½ million dollars. It will cost a lot to have the equipment and substations necessary to provide good coverage.

Supervisor Morris close with one comment – a serious problem facing all fire departments is the lack of volunteers.

Fred Dixon – Even though Board hasn't made a statement on where going at this point, would be interested in getting opinion of attendees.

7. Close of Hearing, Annual Special Assessment District – Supervisor Morris closed.

Annual Meeting  
Eagle Township Board

1. Call to Order - The annual meeting of the Eagle Township Board was called to order immediately following the close of public hearings by Supervisor Morris at the Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan Street, Eagle, MI
2. Approval of Minutes – Ron Hodge made a motion to accept the minutes from the annual meeting of March 18, 2000, as printed. Earl Stalker supported the motion. Ayes: all; Nay: none; motion carried.
3. Budget Review and Approval of Salary Portion – Treasurer Schafer reviewed the salary adjustments for the Board. Jim Harsant made a motion to Mary Jo Godlewski supported. Aye: all, Nay: none; motion passes.
4. Proposed work for 2001/2002 -
  - a. \$110,000 for black top Jones – county will pay half
  - b. Gravel – did apply some gravel last year with no problems to homeowners.
  - c. Monroe bridge bid within next 3 weeks. – then all bridge in township done
  - d. Chloride – 2 apps. About \$8,000 per application.
  - e. Brush spraying – budgeted for some brush spraying.  
(Leo Murphy – Howe rd. deal dates back to 1937. Bob Little is Howe Road going to be paved? Supervisor Morris, no idea.)
  - f. MDOT would like to close RR crossing in Grand Ledge. Have proposed \$120000 towards paving of Tallman Road. Would take considerable township money.
  - g. Mobile home Park – test well drilled Tuesday. Supervisor Morris knows nothing more about it.
  - h. Other – proposed American Eagle and possible U-Store-It

5. Budget Approval Resolution – With correction Trustee Hazen <sup>made a resolution</sup> resolution to accept the 2001/2001 budget. P-s supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried. Trustee Colby, yes – Treasurer Schafer, yes, Supervisor Morris, yes, Trustee Hazen, yes, Clerk Simmons, yes.

*see see  
Wendy Simmons*

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Supervisor Morris close by commenting that a serious problem facing all fire departments is the lack of volunteers.

Mr. Fred Dixon stated that even though Board hasn't made a statement on where going at this point, he would be interested in getting opinion of attendees.

7. Close of Hearing, Annual Special Assessment District – Supervisor Morris closed the annual special assessment district public hearing.

#### Annual Meeting Eagle Township Board

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  - g. Mobile home park – test well drilled Tuesday. Supervisor Morris knows nothing more about it.
  - h. Other – proposed American Eagle and possible U-Store-It
5. **Budget Approval Resolution** – With correction Trustee Hazen made a resolution to accept the 2001/2001 budget. Treasurer Schafer supported the motion. Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried. Trustee Colby, yes – Treasurer Schafer, yes, Supervisor Morris, yes, Trustee Hazen, yes, Clerk Simmons, yes.

March 24, 2001

6. **Special Assessment Resolution** – Clerk Simmons made a motion to approve the cost of \$304,000 to prepare Clark Road. That a special assessment be made in the amount of \$1500 spread over 3 tax years, further that Supervisor Morris prepare the tax roll. Trustee Colby supported the motion. By roll call vote, Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

8. **Operating Millage Resolution** – Treasurer Schafer made a motion to do 1% allocation as allocated. Clerk Simmons second the motion. By roll call vote, Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

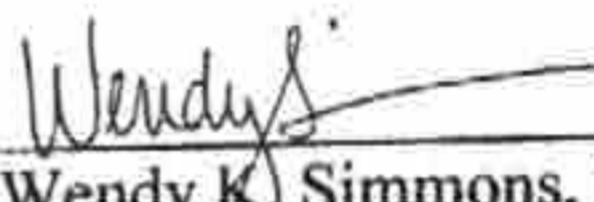
9. **Emergency Services Millage** – Trustee Colby motion to levy 1 ½ mill for EMS. Trustee Hazen seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Ayes: 5; Nays: 0; Motion carried.

10. **Other** - Supervisor Morris, complimented the Clinton County commissioners as they have built a new jail, and a new courthouse without extra millage. Commissioner Clark Pierson commented on the new courthouse and confirmed that our tax bill would not go up as a result of its construction. Supervisor Morris stated that \$3 billion dollars is whole taxable value of Clinton County. Clinton County is number one in pounds of milk produced in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Don Moore thanked the Board for black topping Herbison Road.

11. **Adjournment** - Supervisor Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Clerk Simmons supported the motion. Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Motion carried.

3-23-02  
Approved

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Clerk

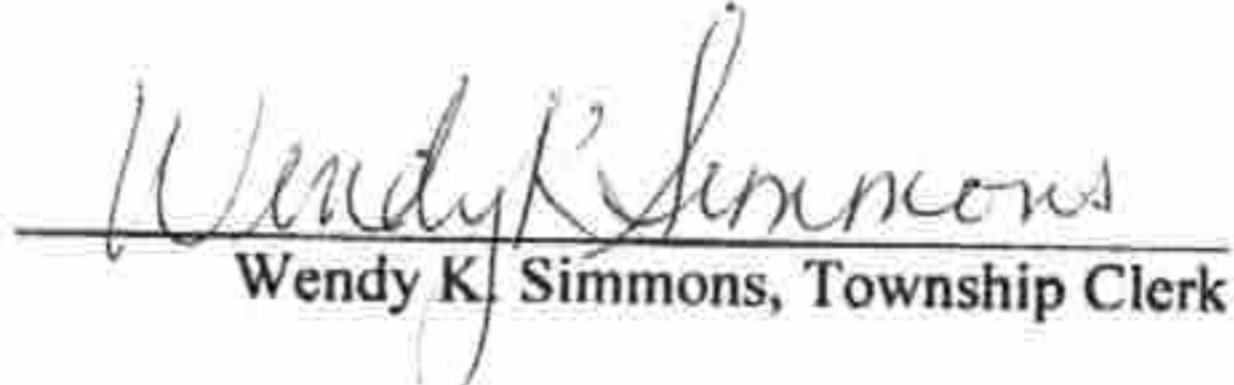
**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2001/2002  
BUDGET FOR EAGLE TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS:** An Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing have been held at the Eagle Township Hall on March 24, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. and notices of said meeting being published in a timely manner in the Grand Ledge and Portland community newspapers and a number of Township residents attending;

**WHEREAS:** The receipts and expenditures for 2000/2001 fiscal year having been read and the estimated budget for 2001/2002 being presented to those attending and discussion held, a motion was presented from the audience by Jim Harsant supported by Jo Godlewski to approve the salary portion of the budget and recommend that the Township Board adopt the budget as presented and that motion carried.

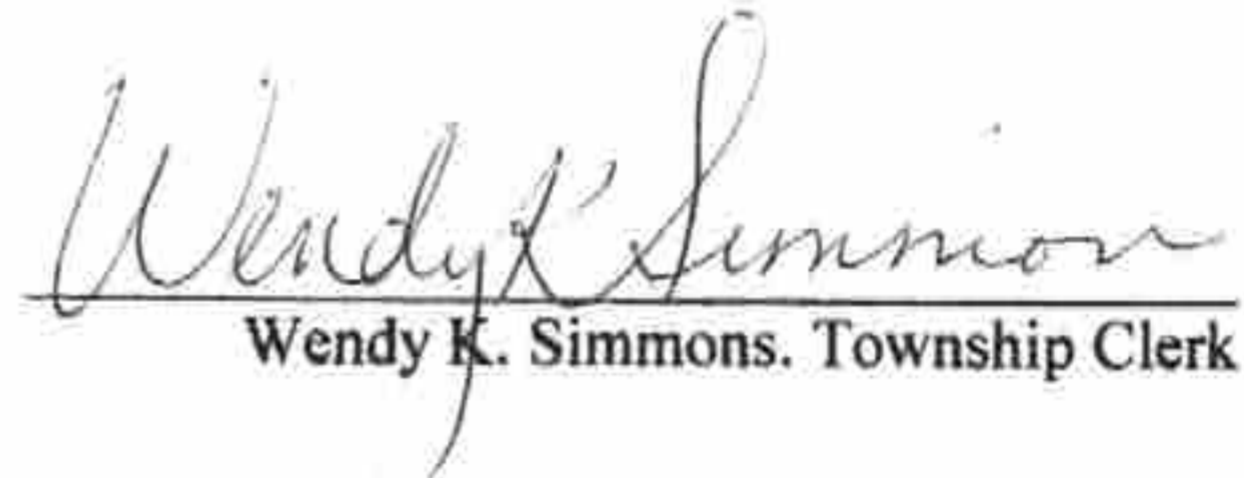
**NOW THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that the 2001/2002 budget of Eagle Township be adopted as presented. The foregoing was offered by Board Member Hazen and supported by Board Member Schafer and was declared adopted with the following vote:

Ayes: Five (5)  
Nays: None (0)  
Absent: None (0)

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Wendy K. Simmons, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Eagle Township hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Eagle Township Board at the Annual Meeting of said Board held March 24, 2001 at which meeting a quorum was present; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk

**EAGLE TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION  
TO LEVY ONE AND ONE HALF MILLS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

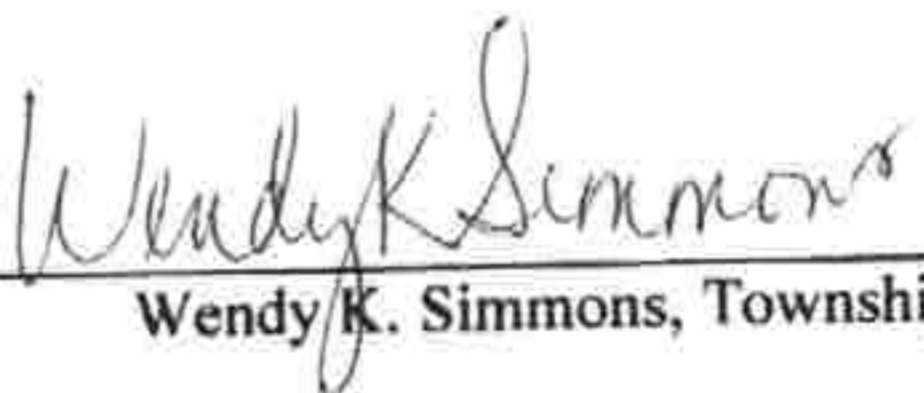
**WHEREAS:** A special district hearing was timely advertised and held on March 24, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.;

**WHEREAS:** Supervisor Morris explained the vote on August 8, 1989 pursuant to PA 33 of 1951 for fire coverage and how this millage helps the Township pay for Emergency Services;

**WHEREAS:** This millage having been discussed at the special district hearing and the annual meeting immediately following;

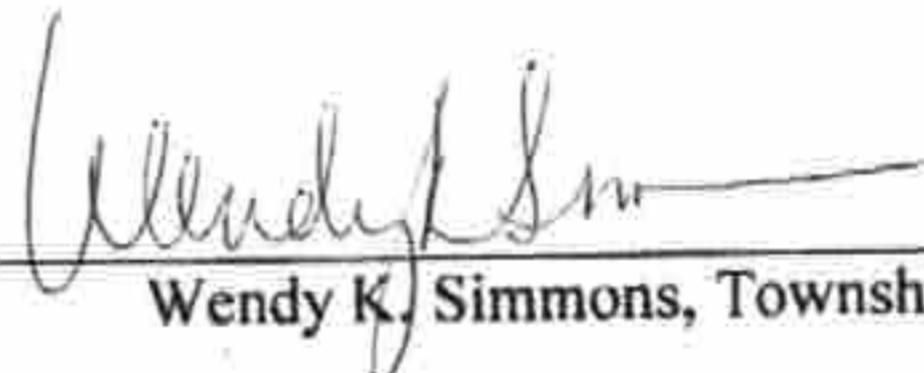
**NOW THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that Eagle Township levy one and one half (1½) mills for Emergency Services in the Township. The foregoing was offered by Board Member Colby and supported by board member Hazen and was declared adopted with the following vote:

Ayes: Five (5)  
Nays: None (0)  
Absent: None (0)

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Wendy K. Simmons, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Eagle Township hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Eagle Township Board at the Annual Meeting of said Board held March 24, 2001 at which meeting a quorum was present.

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk

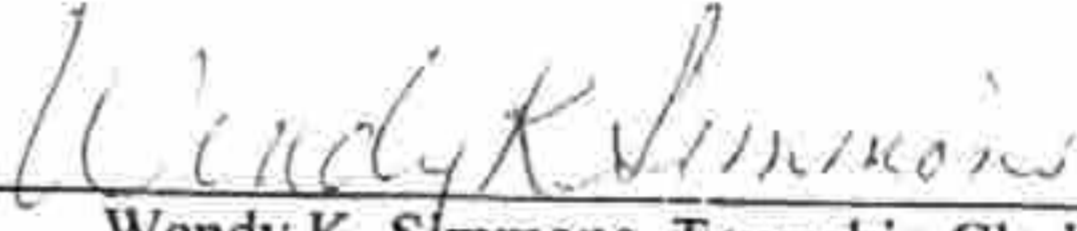
EAGLE TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION  
TO LEVY ONE MILL FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

WHEREAS: An annual meeting and special district hearing was timely advertised and held on March 24, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.;

WHEREAS: The millage having been discussed and the Township by law having authority to levy operational millage, and the Township wishes to continue to provide its residents with services and improvements.


NOW THEREFORE: Be it resolved that Eagle Township continue to levy one (1) mill for operating purposes in the Township. The foregoing was offered by Board Member Schafer and supported by board member Simmons and was declared adopted with the following vote:

Ayes: Five (5)  
Nays: None (0)  
Absent: None (0)

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, Wendy K. Simmons, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Eagle Township hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Eagle Township Board at the Annual meeting of said Board held March 24, 2001 at which a quorum was present and the resolution declared adopted.

  
Wendy K. Simmons, Township Clerk