

**Union Township Board  
Special Financial Meeting  
April 11, 2007 1:00 P.M.  
Indianapolis Executive Airport**

**Attendees: Dan Montgomery, Craig Phillips, Eileen Sims, Candace Ulmer**

**Meeting called to order by Board President Dan Montgomery at 1:00 pm.**

**Trustee Candace Ulmer read the following statement for the record:**

While I've enjoyed working and learning the trustees office, to be honest I've been surprised at how little support and training you receive when entering the office.

As you have probably heard tax bills will be late due to assessing problems and "trending". This is due to moving the assessed valuation of property closer to the actual market price as ordered by the courts and the legislature. All of the properties that I needed to assess have been completed, with the help of a prior assessor, however I will not go to assessor training until next week.

This fall there will be a budget workshop by the DLGF to help us prepare for next year's budget. Again this may be the last workshop as the state is unsure if it can continue to fund these in the future. Needless to say the first three months in office have been a learning experience.

It has taken some time and been difficult to determine where the township is financially. There is a lot "legislativese" that makes simple and complex items more difficult to understand than is necessary. Hopefully today when we leave we will know the difference between an excess levy and a levy excess and the effect that has on what you pay in next year's taxes.

While cleaning I ran across some old campaign material. We ran as residents for responsible Government. Let me be blunt, Union Township is in dire financial straits. While the township expenses are only a small portion of your property tax bill, less than 2% last year, it will most probably be necessary that our township taxes will go up to meet our current and future obligations. I want to be fair, and that is a fair statement.

With the restrictions of the open door law, and the normal business of the township, it has been difficult for me to fully communicate my concerns to the board. With some professional help, this is the purpose of today's special meeting. As we move forward we will be responsible to the residents and put fiscal responsibility back into Union Township's budget.

**Candace stated that the sole purpose of today's meeting is to examine the state of Union Township's finances and look at alternatives for the future. She then introduced Paige Gregory of H. J. Umbaugh Associates who offered to go over township budgeting in general and also discuss specifics as they pertain to Union Township.**

**In addition to Paige's prepared presentation she also answered some dozen or more questions that had been sent to her prior to the meeting.**

The main items that came from the discussion were:

- Current property tax and County Option Income Tax revenue will not meet township expenditures.
- Most townships find it necessary to either borrow money for fire protection or form a fire territory.
- It is problematic and will require a budget appeal to the Department of Local Government Finance to meet the bond payments for which no tax levy was requested for the current year.
- It is not possible to permanently transfer money from one township fund to another.
- It may be possible to invest the bond money to achieve a higher return, this would probably require the services of a professional financial advisor.
- It will probably be necessary for Union Township to go into debt to meet its financial obligations.

There were no motions or decisions made by the Township Board.

There being no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.