

## What is this budgetting all about?



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Maybe someone out there can explain it to us. For close to 20 years we have been following the annual township ritual of passing the budget - and every year we leave confused. Maybe we would understand if we were accountants - but we're not.

If *Cramahe Now* were to give someone a subsidy on the regular price for ads, we'd call it a discount. When the township gives subsidies for ice time or room rentals it's called income.

Here's what we don't understand.

Ice rentals were up over budget last year - that's a good thing, as the township budgetted to collect \$80,000 and took in over \$103,000. Subsidies to kids programs at the Keeler Centre were subsidized by over \$53,000. We support the subsidies, but don't understand how they should be added to the \$103,000 as revenue - we never saw the \$53,000.

It was noted that the Rotary Hall made a profit of almost \$22,000 in 2012. But that included almost \$38,000 in subsidized rentals. I don't know about you, but it seems when an organization collects \$27,000 in real money and spends \$42,000, that's a loss of \$15,000.

And why does one department "pay" another for services when no money is exchanged? Parks and Rec "paid" for \$550 in sewage treatment and almost \$1,400 for use of township equipment. Do we need to have a way to record when a Works truck enters a park, or delivers a lawn mower?

Most of the budget each year is passed with little disagreement. Expenses in many budget areas change little from year to year. But every once in awhile a bugaboo crops up. This time it was canteen revenues.

The conversation started with a comment that the canteen had lost \$11,370 in 2012. All present seemed to agree that running at a loss of that size was unacceptable. But from there, it got really muddy. The Parks and Rec Department spent \$50,523 but had revenues of only \$39,153 for the canteen for the year. Of the \$50 thousand, \$37,083 was spent on stock.