

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
269-731-4888**

**Budget Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Supervisor Hutchings

Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Christina Hutchings Michael Bekes Cindy Genung
 Lynn Harmon Diana Langshaw Mike Sulka
 Linda Walters

Location: All present at the Township Hall

Absent: None

Also Present: Deputy Clerk Greenwood and Josh Thall (Zoom Coordinator)

A motion to approve the agenda was presented by Trustee Bekes, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Supervisor Hutchings read the following remarks prior to the opening of public comments. It was as follows: *The Board will not be taking any public comments on the “No Wake Zone” issue this evening. There is a special board meeting scheduled on March 02, 2021 on this matter.* There were no public comments at the time.

Budget Discussion - A discussion of our fund balance and how it affects Winter tax collections. This is the primary source of Township revenue.

The estimated revenue for Fiscal Year 2020/21 was \$379,257; the expenses were estimated at \$348,134 with an annual surplus/deficit of \$31,123. The estimated revenue for the Fiscal Year 2021/22 is \$350,000; the expenses were estimated at \$328,504 with an annual surplus/deficit of \$21,496.

Modifications to the proposed budget:

- Incorporate a 3% salary increase assumption across Salary lines for the four full-time positions, Board Members and Deputies.
- Clerk Walters will set up a township Zoom account and facilitate the meetings along with Trustee Bekes in the future.

Outstanding Issues:

- It was proposed that the Board will figure out how to stop paying for police services out of general funds; instead possibly leaning towards a “hybrid patrol” during the summer months. We are the

only township in Michigan that pays for police services out of general funds. It was also suggested that we combine first responders and police at a lower cost. It was agreed upon that this issue would warrant more discussion.

- Save cost on mailings for the Township Newsletter.
- The life insurance for employees was tabled due to lack of quotes from the insurance company. Quotes would be provided at a later date.
- Trustee Sulka briefed the board on the cost of a Zoom set up for the Township. He stated that \$4,000 should be enough to prepare the conference room with the necessary equipment to hold future Zoom Townhall meetings.

Adjournment: 8:13 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Walters

Linda Walters
Township Clerk
March 01, 2021