

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

**Budget Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The Ross Township Board held its Budget meeting on **March 24, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** The Township Budget meeting was conducted through electronic remote access due to State Agency Rules and Orders.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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: Josh Thall (Zoom Coordinator)

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

Budget Discussion and Discussion – Budget discussion covering estimate revenues and proposed expenditures of the Township for fiscal year 2021-2022.

- Ross Township Board shall cause to be levied and collected the general property tax on all real and personal property within the township upon the current tax roll an amount equal to .6271 mills as set forth by the Tax Allocation Board in support of the proposed 2021/2022 budget.
- The estimated revenue for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 is \$896,992; the expenses were estimated at \$896,788 with an annual surplus/deficit of \$204.
- Resolution to establish a *General Appropriations Act for Ross Township*; to define the powers and duties of the Ross Township officers in relation to the administration of the budget; and to provide remedies for refusal or neglect to comply with the requirements of this resolution. The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee Bekes and supported by Trustee Harmon. All Board Members voted “aye” in favor of resolution. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted March 24, 2021.
- Salary increases were approved for the fire department. The new rate is \$15 per hour for the fire runs, meeting and training. There is a 10% increase in officer’s pay.
- The township will be receiving a stimulus check for \$489,742.73 for use of any COVID related purposes:

- a) Respond to the COVID-19 emergency and address its negative economic impacts, including through aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and industries such as tourism and hospitality.
- b) Provide premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers. Premium pay could not exceed \$13 per hour or \$25,000 per worker.
- c) Provide government services affected by a revenue reduction during the pandemic (relative to revenues collected by the local government in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency).
- d) Make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Salary Resolutions:

- Resolution to Establish Ross Township Supervisor's Salary (increase of 3%). The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee Bekes and supported by Trustee Harmon. The following voted "aye" – Trustees Bekes, Langshaw, Sulka, Harmon and Supervisor Hutchings. The following voted "nay" – Treasurer Genung and Clerk Walters. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted March 24, 2021.
- Resolution to Establish Ross Township Clerk's Salary (increase of 3%). The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee Harmon and supported by Trustee Bekes. The following voted "aye" – Trustees Bekes, Langshaw, Sulka, Harmon and Supervisor Hutchings. The following voted "nay" – Treasurer Genung and Clerk Walters. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted March 24, 2021.
- Resolution to Establish Ross Township Treasurer's Salary (increase of 3%). The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee Harmon and supported by Trustee Bekes. The following voted "aye" – Trustees Bekes, Langshaw, Sulka, Harmon, Supervisor Hutchings and Clerk Walters. The following voted "nay" – Treasurer Genung. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted March 24, 2021.
- Resolution to Establish Ross Township Trustee's Salaries (increase of 3%). The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Trustee Harmon. The following voted "aye" – Trustee Bekes, Trustee Langshaw, Supervisor Hutchings, Clerk Walters and Treasurer Genung. The following voted "nay" – Trustee Harmon and Trustee Sulka. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted March 24, 2021.
- The 3% increase for the Board Members would also include the Office Manager, Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer.

Public Comment - No public comment during the budget meeting.

Adjournment: 6:35 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Walters

Linda Walters
Township Clerk
April 07, 2021

