

**Fredonia Township Board-Budget Meeting**  
**May 6, 2019 5:00 PM**  
**Fredonia Township Hall**  
**8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068**

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## MINUTES

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**BOARD MEMBERS** present:  Doug Damon, Supervisor  Karen Diver, Clerk  
 Paul Baranowski, Treasurer  Jerry Diver, Trustee  JC Skowron, Trustee

**STAFF** present:  Phil Damon, Fire Chief  Dianna Baker, Deputy Clerk/Cemetery Sexton  
 Roger Smith, Assessor  Pamela Jo Eastman, IT  Clyde Lampkin, Code Enforcement/Zoning  
 Dan Livingston Sr., Calhoun County Planning Commission  Dan Livingston, Jr., Road Committee,  
 Jacob Washburn, FD Training Officer

**AGENDA – REVIEW BUDGET, MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018-2019 BUDGET**

Additions/Deletions: Also work on figures for the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

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Doug Damon opened the meeting stating we need to work on amendments for the current budget and also work on the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. He explained to those present that he had enlisted Pamela Eastman and JC Skowron to help with budget work. He mentioned that Pam was designated the Budget Organizer and with that Doug turned the meeting over to her to discuss the report she had compiled.

Pam explained the layout of the report and the color coding key points. Chief Phil Damon and Jacob Washburn were present to discuss the Fire Department budget. Overall the department is in good shape for the year. One concern was the propane for #2 Station was over budget. Expected expenditures were at \$1,200. Phil said they keep the thermostat at 58° but the winter winds out of the west are a challenge. It was discussed and agreed to increase this amount to \$2,000.

Phil stated that he waits until the April payroll is ran before he determines how much budget is left for other things. He expressed he does not want to go over budget. He stated that the three main trucks and the grass truck are coming due for maintenance at an estimated cost of \$8,000. The #2 Station truck needs 8 new tires – at \$300 each - \$2,400. He also explained that every year he gets four new pagers so that all of their pagers are always under warranty. He will check with ProComm on the current price. He has “Fit” tests schedule in May that will run about \$2,000. He also stated that the Hose & Ladder Test was done last fall and will not be needed again until next year’s budget. He has two new fireman and needs gear for them. Until that can be arranged they are using old equipment.

Phil said the 10 sets of new gear that was ordered last fall is scheduled to be delivered soon. Once he gets the invoice he and Paul will look at the millage money in the Fire Fund to determine if they have enough to pay the bill without depleting the fund. If needed, they will leave some amount in the fund and use the Fire Department budget money to cover it.

Phil said he would itemize everything on his list and get the dollar amounts to the board for all this by the next board meeting.

Jerry asked about the \$30 grand millage money for next year. He was told that would come in next March and could be used for Fire Equipment or new truck. Paul said the millage money was in Pooled Cash and no fund was set up yet. Pam asked why then does the Fund 206 - Fire Fund show dollar amounts for both Fire Truck (\$6537) and for the Fire Equipment millage of \$24,968 for a combined total of \$31,505. Paul said he wasn’t sure he would have to check.

There was discussion about Deferred Comp line item and why it is over budget. Karen and Pam said this needs to be investigated further.

Phil asked about the possibility of getting a Township Sam's Club Card so he can purchase 9 volt batteries there for a much cheaper price and not have to pay sales tax. There was much discussion about Non-profit verses Tax Exempt. Karen said that we have a Township Tax Exempt number and with that sales taxes are not charged. Jerry said we are not non-profit because we will still need to pay taxes on expenditures at the end of the year. He also said he believes non-profit is different that Tax Exempt. JC mentioned it depends on how the paperwork is submitted. Pam suggested they ask the question to the proper people. Karen said she would look into this.

The Fire Department's line item for Lawn Mowing and Snow plowing was then discussed. Charles Fisher is the new Lawn Mower guy for #2 Station and Lutheran Cemetery. He guessed the split between the two was \$20 or \$25 for #2 and the rest for the cemetery. Final split was calculated using \$25/mow for #2 Station. There followed a huge discussion on just how many times the guys would mow. Ended up using 14 mows per fiscal year, for a total of \$800 at #2 that included snow plowing. Pam reminded Karen to be diligent in the account splitting between Fire Department and Cemetery accounts when Charles submits his bills.

Karen asked Phil about the conference they just attended. Phil stated he has gotten free tickets so the only bill was for gas. He does not submit mileage because he does not want to hurt his budget.

Dianna Baker was present to discuss the Cemetery Budget. Pam informed her that there had been many accounting issues between her line items and that she had worked with JC and Karen to clean these up. It was noted that Dianna (Sexton), JR (Grave Openings), and Jerry Cole (Grave Foundations) all get paid out of this department.

Dianna stated that we receive \$500 per burial. In summer months grave openings cost \$325. In winter months of November through March the cost is \$425. Actual budget figures are based on by how many people pass away.

Jerry asked why the Operating Supplies went over budget. Pam advised that it was due to approximately \$540 being paid for the new signs that he put up at all three cemeteries. It was noted that Lyon Lake's sign is not yet up but Jerry assured us he had bought everything he needed to do the job.

Dianna said we could remove the Publishing line item from the budget. She posts notices at the cemeteries and Pam posts them to the website. It was suggested that she also post them at the board in front of the Town Hall. Jerry asked what the timeframe was for folks to remove stuff from graves. Dianna refreshed his memory that for Spring Cleanup everything is to be removed by the 4th Saturday of MARCH, and for Fall Cleanup everything is to be removed by the 4th Saturday of SEPTEMBER. Jerry & Karen said if they find a broken plastic pot they throw it away. Dianna reminded them they are not to move flowers or urns. There followed much discussion about lawn mowing. Jerry said he had already mowed in April and folks were stopping by saying it was nice to see someone out working. He said the old section is full of leafs, sticks, and tall grass. It will take a lot of work at \$16/hour to clean up.

Jerry also stated he is taking a 1099 for the work. We are just cutting him a check and he will pay his own taxes. Doug stated he will check with the MTA in the morning as we are not sure Jerry is allowed to dictate how he is paid as he is already on the payroll for his Trustee work. Jerry said regardless he wants a 1099.

Jerry stated he thinks we should calculate 7 mows from now through June. He thinks we should change our calculations for Lyon Lake because we used \$300/mow but his bid to the township that passed was \$300 total for the cemetery and the hall. Pam informed him that was not what his bid said – it was actually \$300 for Lyon Lake and \$25 for the hall. Jerry disagreed. Karen told him Pam was right. Jerry thanked Pam for getting him more money. Pam denied she had done any such thing, she was just stating facts. Proper calculations for all 3 cemeteries were made and came up with a lawn mowing total of \$4,025. Dianna suggested we add \$1,000 to allow for overages. Jerry said he has 12 hours doing leaf pickup already and needs at least another 3 hours to finish. Paul asked if 20 hours was enough. Pam suggested a constraint be put on the leaf pickup and grass weed whacking otherwise the time spent could become an issue. Jerry

disagreed. Pam asked Dianna who has been the Sexton for many years how long she thought it takes for cleanup at each cemetery. It was agreed that 5 hours for both Lutheran and Houston should be enough – which came in at \$80. The budget amount was set to \$100 for both. Jerry suggested 25 hours for Lyon Lake. Dianna said it shouldn't take that much. Jerry said it won't next year but this year he has a mess to cleanup because the previous guy didn't do his job. Doug reminded everyone that Mr. Upston had served us for many years but now that he has health issues and had to resign it is understandable why somethings did not get done last fall. JC and Paul thought \$4500 was a good figure. That would bring the budget up from \$7,500 to \$8,000 for this year.

We then discussed charges for next fiscal year. Calculations were based on 13 mowings/year. Dianna stated she only snow plows the cemetery when there is a funeral and that it was only done once last year for \$75. We all agreed to go with \$150 for snow plowing. Jerry told Pam she isn't thinking right. Phil said 20 mowings. We calculated for 13. And "I don't want to be caught with my pants down come budget time." Doug said he did his figures using 14 mowings. Paul said we calculated it at \$8,000 for 13 mowings. Jerry said, "I'll be honest with you Pam I planned to make \$6,000 mowing this year." It was agreed to adjust the figures using 14 mowings/year at all cemeteries. When all the calculations for lawn mowing, leaf/grass cleanup, and snow plowing were made the finally agreed upon total was \$8,600. That includes \$8,050 for mowing, \$450 for cleanup, and \$100 for snow plowing. Paul asked Jerry if he was comfortable with that and Jerry responded that he didn't know because he didn't have a calculator.

Pam mentioned that now we need to adjust FICA/Medicare but Paul said if 1099s are given there are no taxes taken. Karen said she would need to check how Phil and Charlie wanted there's done. Jerry said he is not deferring anything he wanted a 1099 and he would pay his own taxes. Doug reminded everyone he intended to contact the MTA on this issue and whether or not we need contracts. Jerry told him to ask about contracts for all employees.

Pam stated that there was a recommendation to increase Dianna's wages by \$3000/year. We need to digitize our cemetery records and there is a ton of work to do and Dianna is the most logical one to do it. Pam suggested that there is a ton of work to do and it may take 200-400 hours plus to complete it. Karen agreed because we have Potem software and we need to use it. Jerry questioned Pam's 200-400 hours guess. He asked "how long you guys been sleeping back there? Under the lamp or something... I mean you got a ridiculous question you asked about lawn mowing so Jesus Christ Pam where are you coming from?" Pam mentioned as example she had already spent over 100 hours doing budget work, cemeteries would be a lot more. Doug mentioned that in the past when they got estimates to hire the work done it was a large sum of money.

JC recommended we move on. Pam asked Doug if there needed to be a vote on the wage increase. Doug said no it would become a matter of the budget and that would then get voted on. All agreed to the increase. Paul suggested using the MTA Calculator Tool to see what other townships are paying their employees. Jerry said he thinks Dianna does more than she gets paid for. He then asked what the final cemetery total for 1920 (*he meant 2019-2020*) budget came up to how much? The total is now \$19,050 for everything.

The meeting continued with Pam going through each department and every line item inside them. She explained all the adjustments that were agreed upon by the group and made in the last 3 weeks. She again reminded all that under Elections a new expense that the township needs to budget for. Every time we have an election our new voting equipment needs to be programmed. That fee runs about \$3,000 per election. Doug is going to check with others to see if townships can get a "kick-back" for these fees. Karen said Teri Loew from the county said no. It was decided that if there are 3 elections next year then we need to budget for \$9,000.

The Assessor's wages were again discussed. It was mentioned that "re-inspection" is the proper description verses "canvassing". Pam stated we need to settle on how the assessor is paid. Karen had moved canvassing to his wages in January. If something happened to Roger we would need to pay someone else to do the canvassing. Jerry said the MTAs opinion is canvassing is part of Roger's statutory duties. Karen said Neil, the auditor, said the same thing. Jerry said Roger came to the board to get an extra 6 grand for canvassing because he had to do 20% of the township that he should be doing already. Doug said that wasn't right. He believed that was for the drawings. Jerry argued and said he thinks Roger's whole pay thing needs to be addressed at a regular board meeting. Because he (Roger) made comment 2 board meetings ago when Paul brought up prepaying employees that he (Roger) had a signed contract that pays him the first of

every month. Jerry wants to see the contract. He said, "I've been on the board since 2012 and have never seen the contract." Doug showed him the signed 2012 contract and an unsigned 2016 contract. Karen could not find a signed copy. Paul thinks Roger's wages of \$13,000 plus \$6000 for canvassing is very reasonable. Most townships are paying a lot more. He agreed with Pam that the wages should be kept separate from the canvassing fee and only pay the later when canvassing is done. Pam and Paul reminded all about the "prepay" no-no. Karen asked then why did she even change Roger's pay? She thought probably because of what Neil told her. Karen expressed concern that Roger is going to think she is a "damn imbecile" for all the changes to his pay.

Roger suggested that since we don't have a current contract on Roger we need to adjust the last sentence. Roger is an at will employee and the township does not need to give him 2 months' notice to let him go. Nor does he have to give the township notice. Nobody should get two months' time to quit or be let go. Karen and Paul agreed because he could really mess up our books before he left. Jerry said we talk about this later because up in the revenue section there is a question about why does Current Tax line item seems to be decreasing. "Is Roger even doing his job? This is where we make our money from taxes. It was agreed that the Assesses wages and canvassing need to be separated and put back to the way they were. Doug clarified that on the canvassing fee Roger gets just so much per parcel so the fee is actually a little less than \$6,000.

It was agreed to decrease Clerk's Education & Training amount from \$3,000 to \$500. Karen suggested the IT wages be increase. Pam said she would not discuss her own pay. Jerry said we should jump to the bottom line before we decide whether or not to pay her more. Doug agreed it should be more. In lieu of that Karen thought a \$20 telephone allowance could be considered for Pam and maybe herself. Paul said he didn't want one. Doug asked what is a phone allowance. Karen said it is just a \$20 stipend. Jerry expressed concern over cell phone in conducting township business because if anything happened the cops can confiscate the phones and get all kinds of info of them. The subject of IT pay was abandoned and we moved on.

Pam said the 5 year report showed little if any use for Treasurer Education and Training. Paul suggested decreasing it from \$1,500 to \$500. Paul said his wages were over because of an overlap with Angie's pay in November. Karen said no that did not happen. Jerry questioned the note beside Deputy Treasurer Wages. Pam explained it was just a question as the 5 year report has never reflected deputy pay. Paul suggested cutting the budget from \$900 in half to \$450. And adjusting the FICA/Medicare.

Pam shared that per the last budget meeting they inactivated and combined the General Activity department into the Town Hall Department. They also moved expenses and the budget figure of \$24,300 into the Town Hall. Karen is going to call the MTA and ask what the amount they charge us for membership dues. Paul said he got his own \$50 bill that he turned into Karen for payment. It was decided to reduce the budgeted amount for membership fees from \$1,300 to \$300. Also it was noted that Professional Contract Services was used to pay attorney and audit fees. The budget allowed for \$2500. It was recommended to increase this to \$7,500. Doug stated that he hoped next year the amount would be less after the ordinances and marijuana issues are done.

Town Hall Maintenance Building Repair was over due to LEDs being installed. That was a onetime expense so Pam suggested leaving the budget at \$500. Karen didn't think it was enough because when the roof blew off they just paid the bill because it didn't meet the \$500 deductible. JC felt that scenario would be classified as an unusual event that could not have been expected. All agreed to keep the budget at \$500 for this line item.

We discussed the lawn mowing and snow plowing budget for the Town Hall and decided to leave it at \$2,000. Jerry made the comment "Pam it sounds like you are jealous I'm doing more work than you." Pam ignored him. Next item, Karen asked about the Town Hall Rental deposit. It was suggested doing away with the deposit due to then volume of work required to process it for each rental. In place of a deposit it was suggested making a non-refundable down payment to reserve the hall. Paul gave the example that if the cost was \$100, \$25 of that could be put down to reserve the hall. The remainder would be paid when the keys were handed out or folks could pay the whole amount upfront. This needs to be on the agenda for the May 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting as it requires a vote.

Paul mentioned that since the Town Hall is over budget at 108%, it also should be on the agenda because it requires a vote for an amendment. Pam agreed and said the challenge at hand is to find money to cover it. We would revisit this when money was “found”.

Dispatch was budgeted for \$10,000. It was agreed to lower this amount to \$6,000 based on the 5 year report and how much are bills have been. Paul suggested we move the extra \$4,000 to Town Hall to help balance there. He also added that we could move the \$1,000 from his Treasurer Department that we had taken away from his Education and Training line item. Also we should consider combining all department Office Supplies line items and move those budgeted amounts to the Town Hall. Pam stated that these are all excellent suggestions.

Due to the increase of permits pulled this year for Inspections, the budget had already been amended in February 2019. It was since noticed that related Admin Fees were not being taxed nor had any 1099s been sent out. Karen has made changes to the payroll to include necessary tax withholdings going forward. Pam recommended for the Inspections Department, we start at \$25,000 next year as that figure seems to be more in tune with yearly actuals. Jerry wants to know what other townships do with their Inspector Fees. He knows some take a percentage out for their townships. For us this is a wash – money in/money out. Paul clarified that we do collect a \$50 Admin Fee but in the past it was decide that the Clerk and her deputy get it in a \$30 for clerk/\$20 for deputy clerk split. Karen said at first she was miffed about taking this money but since working here she has found processing permits is a lot of work and she thinks the fees are appropriate compensation. If the fee was to be taken away she said that’s fine but then the Inspectors could come in and deal with all their own permits.

It was noted that for the Planning Commission we need to investigate the FICA/Medicare amounts. Jerry recommended reducing the Planning Commission’s Education & Training from \$900 to maybe \$500. All agreed.

Zoning’s only change was to include a line item for Jerry’s deferred comp expense.

The meeting moved on to discuss expected Revenues. Pam shared that the CURRENT TX item seems to be decreasing when compared to the 5 year history report. She asked what actually is this tax. Paul said he thinks it’s the revenue we get from taxes. Pam asked why then does it appear to be going down. Paul said we need to check with assessing. Everything he gets comes from there. It would be whatever the taxable value is and his tax system generates how much it’s supposed to be. Pam & JC asked Paul if he could run a report for 5 years back to see what his figures show. Jerry wanted another 5 year printout from Roger on each parcel. Paul showed us how he can run a Quick Tax Disbursement Report that shows amounts for checks he cuts. He stated that only changes in assessing can cause tax changes. In order for him to change taxes the township would have to agree to increase everyone’s taxes. Paul could not explain why CURRENT TAX seems to be going down but he did offer to look at it.

Paul stated he is finished balancing with the county and explained how he can manipulate his tax system to run past reports. Jerry offered “not to get into a big conversation right now, but that’s the question he tried to ask at the last board meeting when Roger blew up...” Karen said Roger gets very defensive. He needs to let us know this stuff. Jerry stated he was going to talk to Doug later tonight about this stuff. Pam mentioned that we all need to get on the same page. The figure needed for our budget work comes from Paul’s tax program. Paul agreed. Pam said if she was to ask Roger he wouldn’t have a clue about this budget stuff. Jerry stated that’s why we need to ask him for a five year report.

Pam said the point is that Paul is the one that provides an amount for the CURRENT TAX line item in the budget. Jerry countered, “But it is driven off Roger’s assessing and the taxable amount.” Paul said he (Paul) could run a Quick Tax Disbursement Report and get a pretty good idea what’s up with the amount. Jerry said, “Yes, but I want to see more detail. I want to see it by parcel.

Moving on, Paul stated that the Delinquent Property Tax should be coming in June. He reminded everyone that at our last board meeting the county explained how the figure is whatever it needs to be to make us whole. He said it looks like it will be right around \$2,000.

Pam mentioned that in the past 5 years the LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION amount came in at \$29,547. This year only \$944 was deposited on March 31<sup>st</sup>. “Why so little?” Paul said he doesn’t know about this Stabilization amount. He hasn’t seen it. Pam mentioned it was hard to investigate it because there were no notes on the deposits – just a dollar amount put into that account. Karen suggested looking up the actual check that was received to see if there is any info there. Paul agreed to look into this with Karen.

Next we discussed the SUMMER TAX COLLECTION FEE. Past years show a dollar amount but there is zero for this year (2018-2019). Paul thinks Angie would have collected that. Normally it comes from the school districts. Pam said we just need to know the amount for this year’s final amendments and for next year’s proposed budgets. Paul admitted he’s still learning but his understanding is we collect school taxes for them and they pay us a percentage to do the tax collection. Linda at CISD said the last 2 years we got \$2,389.50. Paul said he thinks we may take this out of the actual tax disbursement and that is why we do not see a check coming in for it, but he’s never done a summer tax collection so he is not sure how we get the money. It could have been allocated to the wrong account. He said he’d do some checking but he’s still trying to figure out all the summer tax stuff.

As for the ECKFORD FIRE PROTECTION FEE, we get that in June and that Chief Damon would get the actual figure for us at a meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The amount is budgeted for \$25,000 but last year we only received \$22,500.

INTEREST & DIVIDENDS – Pam stated that we had received a check from Calhoun County that specifically said the money was dedicated to upkeep of Houston and Lyon Lake cemeteries. JC & Karen said this needs to be moved to Cemetery Income.

Under MISCELLANEOUS INCOME there are two deposits. One for a payroll refund. JC & Karen said this had to stay here because it was from 2017 – a prior year. So we will leave it as Income for now. The other deposit was a refund of Insurance money paid. JC said that technically this has to be moved out of revenue and moved to reduce expenses against our insurance expenditures that were paid. Karen will make the transfer.

Pam stated that even with everything that had been discussed we still did not balance. Our expenditures are higher than our actual and expected revenue/income.

Next we addressed the special funds for Lyon Lake Street Lights, Lyon Lake Weeds, Roads, Fire Fund, and Public Safety. It was generally agreed that no one person knew exactly how these funds work. Pam gave the example that even though we have a special assessment for Lyon Lake Street Lights; Karen pays those bills out of the Township General Ledger because there is no expenditure account set up inside the fund. Pam mentioned then that is one reason why the Town Hall Depart is over budget. All agreed. Paul said he receives taxes and disburses money into the special assessment funds. It’s Karen’s job to pay bills out of those funds. She needs to set up expenditure accounts in the funds to be able to write checks against them. Karen said she tried to do but it didn’t work. Karen will call BSA and work with them.

Karen pointed out that originally the Roads Fund was not in the budget. In January there was an amendment to put \$100,000 into the budget for Roads so they could pay the bill. Pam pointed out that when this was done, it caused the fund to have a deficit of about \$24,000. This was because the amendment was to increase budget expenses but addition revenue to cover the expense was not considered. JC stated that there has to be some sort of accountability for each special assessment to bring in money and applicable bills need to be paid against that specific money. Paul will check the dollars for all special assessment fund accounts.

Pam asked what the 301 PUBLIC SAFTY BANK ACCOUNT FUND is. Paul thought it was the Fire Truck Fund. Jerry asked if it was the one with \$61,000 in it. There followed much confusion as to what was what between the 205 Public Safety Fund, the 206 Fire Fund, and the 301 Public Safety Bank Account Fund. Karen said she had moved the money from the old 205 Fire Truck Fund to the new 206 Fire Fund and inactivated the 205. Paul said the 206 is the Fire Turnout Gear. He thinks Neil, the auditor, may have to help us with transferring money left over from the 205 Fire Truck Fund – similar to Sewer Debt Elimination. Paul doesn’t know what we have to do with that, if anything.

Jerry asked when the next audit is. Both Paul and Karen suggested it should be scheduled soon.

Pam stated that the \$6,537 amount was what was left over after the new fire truck was paid off and that is the amount that got moved to the new 206 Fire Equipment Fund. Paul disagreed and said no, it's the 301 Fund. Pam said she was pretty sure the 301 Fund was the bank account that was used to pay off the fire truck loan and the 205 Fund managed the money. Both the 205 and the 301 are labelled PUBLIC SAFETY. Then when the new millage for fire equipment came in, Karen closed out the 205 fund and put both the money left from the new fire truck and the millage for fire equipment in the new 206 Fund now called FIRE EQUIPMENT FUND. Needs investigation.

Jerry added that the Public Safety Fund was created 3-4 years ago for better clarification. Doug didn't remember this. Karen said she doesn't get it. The old 205 Fund is all zeros. Paul offered to look into this some more for us. Everyone agreed all the special assessment funds need work.

Paul told us that his 703 Tax Account Fund is what he uses to collect and disburse taxes. It's simply taxes in/taxes out. It does not get budgeted. He added that the special assessment funds receive money but until bills come in there is no expenditures of those funds.

Next we discussed Drains verses Drains at Large. Karen asked what is the difference between the two. Paul explained that the taxes he collects for drains from residents go to the County Drains Office. The Drains at Large is a special assessment that the county bills the township for and the townships need to budget for it. Jerry said he thinks Drains at Large is what the county is hosing us for and the Drain Assessment is like what residents get assessed for if a drain goes through their property. Pam said the bottom line is we need to amend the budget and get Drains at Large on it.

Doug mentioned we need to also get Audit Fees into the budget. All agreed. Paul suggested moving the audit up. Karen said she would call Gabridge in the morning. Paul suggested getting it in September or something. Pam summed up the needed amendments here as \$5,000 for audit and \$16,700 (amount normally around \$8,000 but we haven't paid for two years) for Drains at Large. Jerry said so we need like 50 grand to balance. Karen reminded everyone this needs an amendment at the next board meeting. She thinks what happened was the previous treasurer went through and inactivated a lot of stuff with zero balances. Those don't show up on reports, so Drains at Large got omitted from the budgets. Karen offered to check on these.

Jerry wanted to discuss the money we are in the hole for. He shared with us "that's why I keep mentioning at the board meetings that we get our money from taxes. And I hate to say that but I wasn't telling Roger that when he came up to say -- Oh and by the way he was talking about me at the last board meeting -- that you want everybody's taxes raised." Jerry went on to add that was not his purpose of his question of him. "My question is he is not taxing our individuals -- either not correctly or not fairly along with other people in the same situation. That's the bottom line." Karen added "the thing of it is you are asking these questions of Roger not because you are trying to fill your pockets but because you are trying to make sure Fredonia Township has money."

Pam said her biggest observation in going through all this budget work is that she can see we diligent in considering all our expenses/expenditures but are we monitoring our revenue/income as closely. Are we including everything we possibly can? Jerry mentioned he knows we have a general fund balance but we shouldn't have to be dipping into it to pay bills. "I'm telling you we need to start with Roger. He provides the assessments and that's where we get our money from." Pam stated that that won't help us here and now. Jerry countered, "I know but I'm telling you we HAVE to start there. I am not saying Roger is doing anything wrong, but we need to start there."

Pam wrapped up the meeting saying we have to get the special assessment funds sorted out and come up with figures for revenue/income and see where we are. Karen again mentioned she cannot set the Drain figure until we have a meeting but she can get the other ones figured out. Jerry added, "The County, I think it was 4 or 5 years ago, when they did that Drain at Large deal. That was Kathryn \_\_\_\_ . The chick that didn't know what a drain looks like or anything about a drain. Her budget was broke so she knew a lot about books so she threw her weight around. Nothing against women but..." Paul interrupted him with "Are we done? I'm trying to save you Jerry." Pam added "so we still are not balanced." Doug agreed. Karen suggested that we need to set another meeting. Jerry agreed and said it had to be before they went on vacation next Monday night.

Pam said if we could find some money we could finish this year's budget amendments. Paul reminded everyone he had shown us where we could get 5 grand from. Pam said that is great but we need \$12,230 to balance. Jerry said he wasn't going to submit his lawn work until July. Jerry said well we know where leftover money is. That would be the Fire Department. Doug, Paul, and Pam said we cannot touch that.

Pam added that the biggest thing that hurt us was budgeting for the Inspections Department. Jerry said he doesn't even understand why we budget it. Its money in/money out. Paul agreed and Pam suggested maybe we do not need an Inspections department on the budget but even so then we would need to track the Admin Fees and their taxes. Just remember if it stays, in January the board voted to increase the Inspectors expenditures but they did not consider the revenue side. She suggested using actual revenue collected for these verses budgeted amounts.

Jerry suggested subcontracting out for Inspectors but Paul and Karen said we could not do that because we need the permit info to know what's going on in the township. Jerry then suggested we need to get 10% to 15% out of them to make some money.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2019 at 5PM.

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**Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM.**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **May 21, 2019**  
**Karen Diver, Township Clerk** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_ **May 21, 2019**  
**Doug Damon, Township Supervisor** **Date**