

Fredonia Township Board-Budget Meeting
May 13, 2019 5:00 PM
Fredonia Township Hall
8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

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

Doug Damon opened the meeting and informed the board that Paul had brought to his attention this past Friday night that he (Doug) was not allowed to have Pam and JC work on the budget. Doug stated that he felt Pamela has been a lifesaver to the township and so has JC since she has been here.

Doug went over Pam’s report. Paul challenged the use of the \$37,335.10 Sewer Debt Retirement money to balance the budget. Doug and JC reported that the MTA had been contacted and that we were informed the answer to the question of using this money was “Yes, you can pull money from the Fund Balance as a transfer-in to the budget that would be shown as revenue to balance the expenditures.” In JC’s opinion this was a proper recommendation.

Karen mentioned the Drains at Large needs to be budgeted.

Jerry asked if the CURRENT TAX or REVENUE SHARING is going to change. JC asked about the LOCAL STABILIZATION and STATE SHARED REVENUE amounts. Paul’s understanding of the LOCAL STABILIZATION was that it’s an arbitrary number that the state does a calculation on and just send the check out. JC asked if we can expect more STATE REVENUE and Paul said he doesn’t know.

Doug said he thought Pamela might have some ideas on all this. Paul stated she can have only three minutes. Doug said actually we do not have an agenda – Paul and Karen spoke up quickly and said we did it was sent out Thursday. She apologized to Doug for not calling him.

Doug asked the board if they wanted to let Dan or Pamela talk? Paul said only when we get to Public Comments. Doug said, “Well then we may spend an hour right here.”

Jerry asked everyone to go to page 3 of Pam’s report. He wanted to discuss the Assessor’s Canvassing fee of \$6,000. Doug cut him short and suggested that there was no sense in continuing to ride our Assessor.

Paul restated he felt use of fund balance of \$37,000 was dipping into the piggy bank. Jerry said they would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. Karen asked what then are we going to do. Jerry went back to CURRENT TAX amount question. Paul read off some numbers that included 2015-60G, 2016/51G, 2017/53G, and 2018/54G.

Doug thought this might be because of PA116s. Dan suggested it may be the elimination of some Personal Property Taxes due to BOR removal request that he knew of. Dan also asked what the highlights on Pam’s report where for. Jerry responded it’s no good taking money out of fund balance to balance the budget.

Silence pursued and Pam requested to Doug to use her “3 minutes” because she felt the discussions were bouncing all over the place. It was allowed and Pam quickly reviewed the form layout to Dan and others. Stated Special Funds still need a lot of work. The amended column should work as we only have 6 weeks left this year. Jerry said could hash on this or wants to know what to do for the future. Dan suggested to him that we fix today’s business today and deal with the future in the future.

Pam’s time was up. Jerry wanted to know how much the Inspectors get back – what charge. He also wants the board to consider lawn mowing as additional duties.

Karen said she was working on General Ledger changes for the special assessment funds. Paul told her to just make them “whole”. Doug asked if such amendments need to be public.

Paul made motion to accept the Final Proposed Budget (in purple – referring to column on budget worksheet form) with exception State Revenue should equal actual and Miscellaneous Income should equal actual and only use \$1654 of the Sewer Retirement money. Karen supported. 3 Ayes/1 Nay **MOTION CARRIED**

JC stated that she was not comfortable leaving the payroll refund in Miscellaneous Income as revenue. She also said Revenue should equal Expenses and they do not in this final proposed budget amendment as it stands. Jerry suggested increasing millage on roads.

JC asked why the Roads expenses went over what taxes had come in. We had \$62,506 come in and we paid out \$86,752. Doug said he thought it was because previous year money was carried over. All agreed the carryover amounts were not showing on the budget reports.

Because Jerry and Karen needed to leave on vacation tonight Doug suggested having another meeting.

Karen said she has to pay for services in the month they are rendered. Paul proposed to charge an admin fee to all residents on their taxes. He stated that the State of Michigan allows for the township to collect up to 1% on all property taxes. He said we are one of few who do not charge. Jerry wants to see a report how much tax that would generate. Paul said he could do that.

Doug stated that the 2018-2019 amendment is done – now we need another meeting to do the 2019-2020 proposed budget. Meeting was set for June 3, 2019 @ 5PM.

Supervisor Doug Damon adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.

_____ **May 23, 2019**
Karen Diver, Township Clerk **Date**

_____ **May 23, 2019**
Doug Damon, Township Supervisor **Date**