



Dickinson Township
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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
October 11, 2016**

PRESENT: TOM IMHOLTE, DENNIS STRAUB, LORELEI COPLEN - SUPERVISORS; Larry Barrick, Manager; Glenn Kelso, Zoning & Codes Enforcement Officer; Marge Metzger, Secretary/Treasurer.

ABSENT: Andrew Miller, Solicitor; Jason Reichard, Engineer; and Don Yost, Roadmaster.

VISITORS: None

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Imholte called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Supervisor Straub and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Coplen and unanimously passed to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES None

CONSENT AGENDA None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT None

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT (non-agenda items) None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Firemen's Relief Distribution for 2016

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Coplen and seconded by Supervisor Straub and unanimously passed to approve the firemen's relief distributions for 2016 as presented in the Manager's memo dated October 11, 2016. The total distribution received was \$42,596.91.

2. 2017 Draft Budget Review

There was discussion on the proposed rate for the fire service tax. The original tax was set at .22 mills. It was reduced to .084. An increase in the tax would cover all allocations made for fire services without using funds from the General Fund, which has been done in the past.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Coplen to set the fire service tax at .2 mills for 2017. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Coplen and seconded by Supervisor Straub and unanimously passed to set the Fire Service Tax for 2017 at the rate of .25 mills.

The Board suggested paying ahead on some of the apparatus payments, without changing the term limits. A suggestion was made to pay an extra year payment to Union Fire Company and Penn Township Fire Company in 2017. Manager Barrick will make a recommendation for any changes to the proposed contributions to the fire services for 2017 for next week's budget meeting.

Vice Chairwoman Coplen noted that the 2nd Class Township Code allows for a fire service tax up to 3 mills, and up to a .5 mill tax for EMS service. The idea of a combined Emergency Services tax will be researched and considered for the future.

There was discussion on the request for contributions to the Bosler Library and Amelia Givens Library. Vice Chairwoman Coplen mentioned libraries do more than just provide books. They provide other services such as assisting with resumes, job searches, assisting the homeless, providing training and classes. Allocations to the libraries would be giving back to the township. By increasing the fire tax, it will free up funds in the General Fund that can be used for services such as libraries.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Coplen to contribute \$500 each to Bosler and Amelia Givens Libraries. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Chairman Imholte and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Coplen and unanimously passed to contribute \$250 each to Bosler and Amelia Givens Libraries in 2017.

Vice Chairwoman Coplen said maybe next year consideration could be given to making contributions to the other organizations included in the 450.00 category of the budget.

There was discussion on the Barnitz Mill (454.373). Manager Barrick said the budget covers the annual contract for the pest inspection and also some cleanup, which would require the use of respirators. It is a historic resource. The roof was replaced a few years ago. The question of restoring the mill and setting aside money for the restoration was discussed. The Board agreed to ask for a cost to update the study that was completed by C.S. Davidson and to provide cost estimates for phases of construction. Vice Chairwoman Coplen questioned if it is possible to bring a portion of the mill up to code so it can be used to generate income to be used on another area of restoration. The Board may consider setting money aside each year for the restoration.

The park maintenance (454.371) was discussed. Manager Barrick said the playground mulch was completely replaced this year, which had not been done for years. The playground is now ADA compliant. Stone was also added. This expense will not be as much next year. The Park & Recreation Board made the recommendation of their annual events (454.24).

Supervisor Straub asked about the possibility of organizing a group such as "The Friends of" to help with the mill restoration or something else. Manager Barrick stated that the idea has been discussed in the past but no one stepped up to run with it. There is also the concern of spending money on the mill restoration when there are deteriorating roads in the township. The mill is historic and cannot be replaced, but people don't want to spend money on it. Vice Chairwoman Coplen offered some information on setting up a not for profit group, which would have to be registered with the state. A group could then approach the township to partner with them on a project. She mentioned the idea of "Friends of Barnitz" was discussed at the December 8, 2012 Supervisors meeting.

Manager Barrick explained the current status of the health insurance (487.156), and the number of employee changes that were made over the past year that affected the costs. Prior management only budgeted for the existing staff at that time with no anticipated changes. Health insurance options are being considered and reviewed through Benecon, Benefit Solutions, PSATS, and PCI, in an effort to lower costs without affecting the coverage. Currently, the employees pay 4% of the premium, which the Manager would like to continue without an increase. The Township currently pays \$500 toward the deductible, and the Manager asked the Board to consider an increase to \$1,000 for 2017.

Each year \$50,000 is transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund (492.30). This money is used to purchase township equipment. The road project is not shown because those funds come from the General Reserve and some from the Liquid Fuels Fund. The proposed list of road work will be presented by Engineer Reichard at the November 21, 2016 meeting. The plan is to spend \$750,000 on road construction in 2017.

The Board agreed to discuss personnel and wage rates in an executive session to be held on Monday, October 17, 2015, beginning at 5:30 PM.

Manager Barrick reviewed the road budget page. Over \$900,000 was received in 2016 for realty transfer taxes. This allows the township to stay aggressive on the road projects. The goal is to keep \$500,000 - \$600,000 in the reserve. The Board agreed to spend \$750,000 for road projects in 2017.

Manager Barrick reviewed the Liquid Fuels proposed budget. The numbers will be adjusted in order to show a positive balance in the fund. Manager Barrick will make adjustments to the overall budget and provide a clean copy for the budget meeting next Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chairman Imholte and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Coplen and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger

Marjorie E. Metzger
Secretary/Treasurer

