

Special Budget Hearing & Meeting of the Crystal Lake Township Board

Meeting held at 1651 Frankfort Highway, Frankfort MI 49635
March 14, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amy Ferris at 6:05 PM.

Purpose of the Meeting: To adopt the Township budget for FY 2017-2018.

Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Roll Call: Ferris, May, Nielsen, Sullivan, and Trentham were present, constituting a quorum.

Agenda: Trentham moved that the agenda be amended, adding the Property Tax Millage Rate and the Road Fund; Sullivan seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

Conflicts of Interest: Ferris asked if there were any conflicts of interest; there were none.

Public Comment:

- Thelma Ryder:
 - said there were difficulties four years ago regarding salaries, hours, and duties, including those for deputies and although there is no official state statute regarding on-site office hours, nothing prohibits a township from setting more stringent rules and this Township has a decades-long tradition of what it expects, but that is being challenged, resulting in unjust pay compensation; consequently, she asked that the Board not approve any pay increases for Board members until the Board approves a policy developed by a standing Committee, consisting of the supervisor, the treasurer and three Township citizens, to address and review the duties, workloads and onsite hours of all Township personnel, including use of deputies, and pay compensation;
 - also proposed that: the deputies' hours be capped at levels used in 2016 unless approved by Board, that they not be allowed to exchange duties and that within 3 months they be fully trained to take over all the official duties of their respective officers, which is their primary duty, or their remaining hours be forfeited; she also proposed that payroll duties should be returned to the clerk, but accepted clarification that the clerk still originates authorization for each paycheck and cosigns the checks printed by the treasurer;
 - asked that any issue involving substantial monetary output annually, e.g., putting financial data online, should be brought to the standing Committee to research pros and cons before being brought to the Board; although this point was contested by the treasurer, other Board members encouraged her to proceed;
 - stressed the importance of maintaining civility during public hours, including use of cell phones during Board meetings and warned that the public expected it.
- David May said his wife, trustee Tammy May, spent many hours beyond Board meetings handling Township duties and he did not like the insinuation that she was not earning her keep; that he felt there was an objection to her missing a meeting due to vacation, but even then, she took materials with her and he doesn't think there was anything wrong, especially since they have such limited time together; T. Ryder clarified that she was not commenting about T. May.
- Mary Goodman said she believed everyone was doing a good job.

Property Tax Millage Rate: The treasurer explained that there was no need to take a separate vote on this, that we only needed to acknowledge that the 1% millage, minus the Headlee Amendment, was factored into each part of the budget.

Salaries Schedule: Ferris suggested that there be no salary raises at this time due to differences of opinion which have not yet been resolved, but with the option to amend the budget later

- Trentham moved that payment for the Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Clerk be changed from \$12.24/hr. to \$13.50/hr.; May seconded; Sullivan requested that the motion be clarified to acknowledge that the Treasurer and Clerk would commit to ensuring that the Deputies were fully trained within three months and Trentham agreed; roll was called; Nielsen, May, Sullivan and Trentham voted aye; Ferris voted nay. Motion passed.
- Ferris moved that the salaries for all positions on the attached list from the Zoning Administrator down through the Sexton remain the same as last year; May seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Sullivan moved that the salary for the Supervisor remain the same \$19,380.00 as last year; May seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Sullivan moved that the salary for the Treasurer remain the same \$19,380.00 as last year; Trentham seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Sullivan moved that the salary for the Clerk remain the same \$20,400.00 as last year; May seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Ferris stated that she would oppose the proposed salary for Trustees, because she believed they should be changed to reflect per meeting participation similar to Lake and Inland Townships. Sullivan moved that the salary for the Trustees remain the same \$2,754.00 as last year; May seconded; Ferris stated that roll was called; Nielsen, May, Sullivan and Trentham voted aye; Ferris voted nay. Motion passed.

General Fund:

- Ferris moved that the General Fund budget be accepted as presented; Sullivan accepted; after discussion where objections were raised to including a \$350,000 line item for Capital Improvement without have a specific plan in place, Ferris and Sullivan agreed to withdraw their motion and second.
- Sullivan moved that the line item of \$350,000 for Capital Improvement be deleted at this time; Trentham seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Trentham moved that the General Fund millage rate of 1% minus the Headlee Amendment, approximately 0.7012 be approved; Nielsen seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion was passed.

Cemetery Fund:

- Ferris moved that the Cemetery Fund budget be accepted as presented; Trentham seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.

Fire Fund:

- Ferris moved that the Fire Fund budget be accepted as presented; Nielsen seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Trentham moved that the Fire District Millage of 0.5000 be approved; Ferris seconded; all ayes; Motion passed.

Road Fund:

- Ferris moved that the Road Fund budget be accepted as presented; Nielsen seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Trentham moved that the Township Road Millage of 1.0000 be approved; Ferris seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.

Public Comment: T. Ryder asked about the number of meetings required for those working on the road issues; B. Walton attends the monthly County Road Commission meetings, the Township Road Committee members meet irregularly as needed, and all three are volunteers, without pay.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Sue Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.