

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

February 12, 2018

Present – Supervisors Brad Schumacher, Jay Swanson, Bryan Lawrence, Larry Handshoe and Tom Rush.

Call to Order – The Baldwin Township special budget meeting of February 12, 2018 was called to order by Chairman Schumacher at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve/Disapprove 2019 Levy/Budget Proposal – Discussion regarding the 2018 levy. Lawrence stated that he wanted the minutes to reflect that this was the first time he has seen the 2018 levy and feels that the township attorney and Diane Arnold moved on their own initiative. The board agreed to go into debt but the board had no knowledge of this going on here (the revised 2018 levy). Schumacher stated that he did receive this email and reviewed it with the clerk and had forwarded a question back to Diane Arnold. Lawrence stated that this is increasing the levy for 2018 and wanted it be noted that pursuing this with the township attorney on how this actually occurs. We should have been involved. Swanson stated that what was certified for 2018 was not the number people agreed to. We have to figure out where the money comes from to pay this. This is an eye opener to him to see that it was certified. Rush stated that these are questions for the attorney and Diane Arnold and would like to move onto the 2019 fire and maintenance levies right now.

Fire Fund: \$130,000 was certified for 2018. Chief Case stated he has reviewed the operating budgets from 2013 up. At one time, back in 2013, extra money was received from the cell tower. That was a loss of equipment buying power. Now the cell tower money is \$13,000/year. That was a loss of revenue stream. The volume of calls has increased. Training reimbursement has been decreased this year. He would like to see it increased by \$10,000 to pay for increased training. The fund has increased 2.5% from 2013 to 2018. There was an 18% increase in call volume over the last year. Discussion regarding wages. Monies collected from billing insurance will be going into the Fire Fund but there have been no billable calls yet. Rush/Handshoe unanimous that the 2019 fund proposal will be \$140,000 for the Fire Fund.

Capital Fire Fund: \$25,000 was certified for 2018. Discussion regarding equipment needs. Chief Case would like to see it increased to \$50,000. Lawrence stated that he would rather see dollars in the operating fund and, when it comes time, bond for equipment. He would suggest \$0. Handshoe/Swanson unanimous that the 2019 fund proposal will be \$25,000 for the Capital Fire Fund.

Chairman Schumacher called township attorney, Mike Couri, and placed him on speakerphone in order to answer questions on the 2018 levy. Schumacher introduced everyone in the room. The question is that the levy for 2018 was \$1,010,891. He and

Diane Arnold increased the Debt Service. Couri responded that the Debt Service did not include Frontier Trails. Schumacher stated that the question from the Town Board is that the people approved \$1.1 million and this paper shows \$1,345,137 levied. Couri responded that state law requires that there is a levy in the resolution. There needs to be sufficient levy money to cover the bond. That is state law. The resolution is registered with the auditor then it becomes the levy. We increased the Debt Service number with the new bond issued and whatever the existing debt was. Schumacher stated that, by state statute, we had to do that for 2018 and we can lower that down for 2019. Couri stated that there is a statute that once the bond resolution is registered you shall levy those taxes stated in the bond resolution and you don't need anything from the electors. That overrides the electors. Both Handshoe and Rush stated that they were clear with the explanation. Swanson asked for clarification that when the township does a bond in that calendar year that it automatically increases the levy whatever the debt service is for that year. Couri replied that was correct. When the bond resolution goes to the auditor you are levying additional taxes. You can always come back and back off of that amount. The board can trim something off your budget. You are above what residents levied because of the bond. Lawrence stated that, as a board, we had anticipated taking \$200,000 out of Road & Bridge to cover the Debt Service and now we ended up with an increase in 2018. Schumacher stated that it was not approved by the whole town board. Couri stated that in order to apply that \$200,000 in Road & Bridge would take a motion by the board and Diane Arnold would need to be notified to reduce Debt Service. Show it as a reduction on Debt Service and levy would be decreased in 2019. Couri stated that Debt Service should have line items showing how much for the fire trucks, 1326th Street, etc. and should not be broken out separately in other funds. The Town Board thanked Couri for the information.

Road and Bridge Fund: \$540,000 was certified for 2018. Swanson stated that \$100,000-\$120,000 is needed to satisfy operating expenses. Schumacher stated that \$140,000 is the net number with wages. If we pull out \$100,000 for Debt Service we will have \$300,000 for projects. Discussion regarding road projects and plow trucks. The proposed levy for 2019 would be \$440,000.

Capital Fund: \$42,000 was certified for 2018. The Town Board agreed the 2019 proposed levy would be increased to \$45,000.

General Fund: \$213,891 was certified for 2018. Rush proposes increasing to \$215,000. Schumacher stated that \$221,800 was spent in 2017. Lawrence proposes \$230,000 and the Town Board agreed that the 2019 proposed levy would be increased to \$230,000.

Park Fund: \$45,000 was certified for 2018. Rush stated that Young Park was 90% done. He, along with the Park Committee, would like to see the existing playground equipment replaced, trails finished and modification to the backstop. In 2017 \$35,818 was spent. Rush sees additional time mowing and now we have Goose Lake and would like to see the driveway approach in. We also have to get trails out to the water. Schumacher stated that the trails have been cut in but not graveled. Rush would like to

see a 10-12 parking stall installed along with a light along with a canoe rack or fishing pier. Discussion on a 20 year comprehensive plan for parks and accessing park dedication fees from the county. Rush is proposing \$50,000 for 2019. The Town Board agreed the 2019 proposed levy would be increased to \$50,000.

Swanson/Handshoe unanimous to approve a 2019 proposed levy of \$1,246,428.00.

Proposed for 2019 will be:

General Fund: \$230,000
Road & Bridge: \$440,000
Capital Fund: \$45,000
Fire Fund: \$140,000
Capital Fund (Fire): \$25,000
Park Fund: \$50,000
Debt Service: \$316,428
Special Revenue: \$0

Adjournment – Handshoe/Rush unanimous to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.



Submitted/By: (s/) Cathy Stevens
Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Brad Schumacher
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

2-20-18

Date

Attendees: Scott Case, Zac Good