

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP BUDGET MEETING

January 24, 2017

Present – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Tom Rush, Larry Handshoe and Brad Schumacher. Supervisor Jeff Holm absent.

Call to Order – The January 24, 2017 budget meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Brad Schumacher at 7:01 p.m.

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

Approve/Disapprove 2018 Levy/Budget Proposal – The board began discussion regarding Funfest. It was decided to leave it at \$0.

Debt Service: the 2018 balance is \$63,396. Discussion regarding bonding for 136th Street road project. The Bank of Elk River quote does not include bonding costs. Ehlers quote does include fees. The board reviewed the 3 options from Ehlers and determined that the 20-year option with wrapped around existing bonds would be the best option with the first payment being \$34,109 in 2018. The board instructed the clerk to verify that the wrap includes all current debt.

Fire Fund: discussion regarding the budget for 2017 (\$120,000) and the current balance of \$90,206. Rush stated that the department usually operates at \$100,000. Chief Scott Case stated that more intense training for the firefighters is needed. We have 2 thermal imaging cameras that can no longer be serviced. He is looking into grants for those and would prefer 3 cameras. They cost anywhere from \$8,000-\$12,000 apiece. They need them sooner rather than later. The SCBA's are good but batteries need to be updated because of NFPA standards. The turnout gear should be good and may be reused with new recruits. He would like the board to take a look at wages which are now at \$7.25 an hour. He would like to see \$10.00 an hour per call which would cost approximately \$10,000 extra. Rush stated that the grass rig would come out of Capital Fire. Increase Fire Fund from \$120,000 to \$130,000? Case replied 'yes'. Swanson stated that he would like to talk about expensing for fire calls. Schumacher suggested coming up with a fee schedule that could be billed out. The item will be added to the equipment truck workshop scheduled for February. Rush stated that for training and increased wages raise it to \$130,000. Case stated that remodeling improvements for the station are needed in the future. Would like to see a 20x20 hose tower installed and they could use one more stall for training. There are funding mechanisms for remodeling of fire stations.

Capital Fund (Fire): current balance is \$7,373. Rush suggests keeping the fund at \$25,000. Chief Case stated that it will take approximately 6 months to obtain a grass rig and a tender will take about a year after ordered.

Park Fund: current balance is \$21,617. Rush stated that the baseball field cost \$72,000. The fund needs to pay back road and bridge fund. Bases and pegs and the netting and modifications to the backstop are needed along with a little more sod for the outer edge. He is looking at a bleacher also. Will another driveway approach be installed? We also have Goose Lake with another driveway approach and maybe some pavement and trees that need to be removed. Fertilizer for the field will be needed. The Association will be dragging the infield. He suggests increasing the fund by \$10,000. A well house, bathrooms and concession stands should also be considered. Swanson stated that the board needs to hear from the Park Committee. Rush stated that the playground equipment is 23 years old and it was donated. Discussion on grants received already. There will be irrigation costs. Rush suggests increasing the Park Fund to \$45,000.

Capital Fund: current balance is \$42,289. Terry Carlile stated he would like to see some money spent on truck #1 as the welds are broke and the plow is bent and a box is needed. Swanson stated he would prefer to see the whole truck replaced through a state contract. When the state uses their equipment and then they sell it and suggested keeping the fund at \$42,000. Swanson stated that a skid loader and trailer are needed. Schumacher stated that the fund will then have \$84,000 in it in 2018 with the current balance.

Road and Bridge Fund: current balance is \$494,802. Crack sealing quotes are expected to come in at about \$58,000 and chip sealing quotes at about \$100,000. A second lift on Georgetown is estimated at \$58,000. Swanson stated that the yearly average for the maintenance portion of road and bridge is about \$120,000. The board will recommend \$500,000 for the Road and Bridge Fund.

General Fund: current balance is \$272,305. The board will recommend \$213,891 for the General Fund.

Swanson/Handshoe unanimous to approve \$1,030,000 for the 2018 proposed levy:

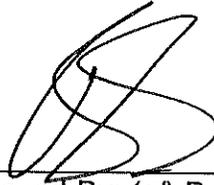
General Fund: \$213,891
Road and Bridge Fund: \$540,000
Capital Fund: \$42,000
Fire Fund: \$130,000
Capital Fund Fire: \$25,000
Park Fund: \$45,000
Debt Service: \$34,109
Funfest: \$0

The clerk will confirm the questions the board has on debt service with Ehlers.

Adjourn – Handshoe/Swanson unanimous to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Cathy Stevens

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



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

2-6-17

Date

Attendees: Scott Case, Terry Carlile, Scotty Harder