

**Ross Township  
12086 M-89  
Richland, MI 49083  
269-731-4888**

**Board Budget Meeting and Public Budget Hearing  
March 15, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Hutchings.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:           Christina Hutchings           Michael Bekes           Syndee Genung  
                      Lynn Harmon                 Diana Langshaw         Mike Sulka  
                      Carin Louis

Absent:           None

Also Present:    Attorney Rob Thall, interim Deputy Clerk Tim Snow and approximately 2 interested residents.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Langshaw moved to accept agenda. Trustee Beekes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Hutchings opened the meeting to Public Comment at 6:02pm. Public speakers as follows: Mike Boehme and Kim Sikkenga both of Ross Township. 6:07pm Public Comment closed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2022-2023 Budget.

Trustee Bekes stated that he believed the Board's previous passionate discussions were beneficial. Trustee Sulka asked Attorney Thall what the status of pending litigations are in Circuit Court Attorney Thall replied that Briefs were filed and usually cases are adjudicated within a year of the filing. Trustee Harmon followed up with a question to Attorney Thall what the next steps would be in regards to the Sherman Lake Sewer Special Assessment District. Attorney Thall advised that approving the Resolution to purchase and Bond Council.

Board discussion was held regarding deadline for reporting on ARPA Funds and protocol for tracking spending. Supervisor Hutchings confirmed she is the reporting Agent for Ross Township, ARPA funds will have a separate Department within the Chart of Accounts and the deadline for spending ARPA Funds is four years.

The Board agreed that the updated hourly wage (as of 4-1-2022) should be updated on all of the Deputy Clerk Job postings.

## **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Clerk Louis introduced the Documents provided to the Board for the Budget/Public Hearing. This included BS&A Budget reports (stepping away from using spreadsheets and unrelated documents for financial reporting) by fund, five resolutions, Ross Township Group Pension Plan Adoption Agreement for Newport Group Inc. Non-Standardized Government 401(a) Pre-Approved Plan, Ross Township Group Pension Plan: Summary of Plan Provisions, Summary of Plan Document Changes and Group Pension Plan Resolution as well as supplementary spreadsheet by Fund, Treasurer's Settlement Fund Report and income from taxes.

The Township Board will approve a new chart of accounts for 2022-2023 budget year once it is reviewed by Auditor.

Board discussed the upcoming three elections in 2022 and that a portion of the expenses are reimbursable. The Board can address possible Budget adjustments at any time in the future if need be. Also discussed, split of Attorney fees to proper fund and board, Building Fund is lower due to amortization schedule and interest decreases due to lowered principal amount with each payment. Trustee Harmon expressed her concern the Law Enforcement wasn't at \$127,000.00 the amount of Fund Balance from the 2021-2022 end of year. Supervisor Hutchings stated she will be providing a presentation for the funding, proposed mutual aid agreements at the April 19, 2022 Board Meeting. Clerk Louis stated that funding needs to be replaced in the 2022-2023 Law Enforcement Budget. Park fees will be reviewed for upcoming daily and season passes and possible ARPA Funding projects that would improve the park.

Supervisor Hutchings stated that the BS&A Reporting modules are Municipality Standards and should be utilized as the Township paid for the computer programs and upgrades. It is the best use of funds previously spent. Attorney Thall also stated that in his experience BS&A reports are utilized by most of his clients.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Clerk Louis opened the floor to Public Comment at 7:09pm.

Kim Sikkenga spoke publicly.

Public Comment closed at 7:10pm.

## **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED**

Trustee Bekes moved to increase per meeting stipends to \$100.00 per meeting for Board of Review, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. The above listed Boards will be paid Monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> payroll of the month and must attend meetings in order to receive stipend. Trustee Harmon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Sulka moved to increase Deputy Clerk and Treasurer to \$18.00 per hour, Office Manager to \$20.00 per hour, Park Manager \$20.00 per hour and Park Employees to \$12.50 per hour. Trustee Bekes seconded.

Clerk Louis moved to add \$58,000.00 from Surplus Funds back to the Law Enforcement Fund to bring total Budget to ~~\$158,000.00~~ \$100,000.00 Seconded by Supervisor Hutchings. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Bekes moved to adopt Resolution 3152022-1 to Establish Ross Township Trustee's Salary at \$2094.00 per year. Trustee Harmon seconded.

Roll Call vote held. The following voted Aye: Bekes, Genung, Harmon, Hutchings, Langshaw, Louis and Sulka.

The following voted Nay: None  
Resolution 3152022-1 adopted unanimously.

Trustee Harmon Moved to adopt Resolution 3152022-2 To Establish Ross Township Supervisor's Salary \$50,175.00 per year. Trustee Bekes seconded.  
Roll call vote held. The following members voted Aye: Sulka, Louis, Langshaw, Hutchings, Harmon, Genung and Bekes. The following members voted Nay: None.  
Resolution adopted unanimously.

Trustee Langshaw moved to adopt Resolution 3152022-3 to Establish Ross Township Clerk's Salary \$50,175.00. Trustee Harmon seconded.  
Roll call vote held. The following members voted Aye: Bekes, Sulka, Harmon, Genung, Louis, Langshaw and Hutchings.  
The following voted Nay: None.  
Resolution adopted unanimously.

Trustee Langshaw moved to adopt Resolution 3152022-4 to Establish Ross Township Treasurer's Salary \$50,175.00. Trustee Bekes seconded.  
Roll call vote held. The following members voted Aye: Bekes, Louis, Sulka, Harmon, Genung, Langshaw and Hutchings.  
The following voted Nay: None.  
Resolution adopted unanimously.

Trustee Bekes moved to adopt Resolution 3152022-5 Ross Township General Appropriations Act 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Resolution. Trustee Sulka seconded.  
Roll call vote held. The following members voted Aye: Harmon, Bekes, Langshaw, Sulka, Hutchings, Genung and Louis.  
The following voted Nay: None.  
Resolution adopted unanimously.

Trustee Harmon moved to adopt Resolution 3152022-6 Ross Township's Group Pension Plan resolution to amend and restate. Trustee Langshaw seconded.  
Roll call vote held. The following members voted Aye: Genung, Louis, Langshaw, Hutchings, Bekes, Harmon and Sulka.  
The following voted Nay: None.  
Resolution adopted unanimously.

Trustee Sulka moved to Adjourn. Second by Harmon.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carin Louis  
Township Clerk