

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of **Greenfield Township Trustees** *Special Meeting*

July 8, 2024 - Held 5:30 PM

The Greenfield Township Trustees met for a Special Meeting at the Greenfield Township Firehouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possibly approving the 2025 Township Budget. Trustee Searle led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Kent Searle, Dave Cotner and Lonnie Kosch were present.

The meeting began by reviewing the spreadsheet information that had been previously sent to the Board. Trustee Kosch asked for more detailed information, specifically regarding several items that were negative or in the red. Fiscal Officer Kull shared the 2024 budget information as a comparison to what had been prepared for 2025. She pointed out the General Fund was negative \$106,000 last year, compared to \$66,000 for 2025. The gasoline tax was negative \$40,000; for 2025 it is negative \$41,000. Road and Bridge was negative \$12,000; this year, it is negative \$75,000, because the Board wanted to see another person; this is the majority of the difference. The budget last year was \$280,000; this year it is \$373,000.

Discussion continued as to the numbers as proposed, and whether or not the money would be available for a third person in the Road Department. Trustee Kosch also pointed out that if the levy passed, that will help, but it will not make up all the difference. He also noted that they could not rely upon their reserve money. Fiscal Officer Kull agreed, and again stated the Board had wanted to see the budget with a third person added, so the proposed budget is what was calculated. She noted that she did not have any information or guidance upon which to base her information, as nothing had been left by the former Fiscal Officer to work with. In addition, she could not seek guidance from other Township Fiscal Officers because that could be construed as seeking legal advice, which they are not allowed to do so. Tom Shafer stated that in looking back over a ten year period, the numbers have always been off kilter as far as the appropriations. Trustee Kosch pointed out that the carryover had helped make up the difference for what monies were not coming in, but that cannot always be relied upon. Fiscal Officer Kull noted the appropriations were overinflated by 250 to 300 percent, and she had decreased those amounts to a more reasonable amount. She did note overall operating costs had increased from 2023 to 2024. Trustee Searle went on to explain that every year he had been a Trustee, the budget always started in the red, but always ended in the black; the fund balances always go up, meaning that the Township underspent. However, he did caution that they would need to be extremely careful so as to not end up in the red. He also noted that if the road levy passes, it will not help in 2025; it will not begin until 2026.

Discussion continued as to the Zoning Inspector salary, and the variables in hours per week and what the new Zoning Inspector's pay rate would be, as well as adding the OPERS amount. Also, the potential for a helper for the Zoning Inspector was factored in.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Greenfield Township Trustees Special Meeting

July 8, 2024 - Held 5:30 PM

Tom Shafer went on to say that the potential additional Road employee was factored in at a \$22 per hour rate, and that included some overtime factored in, at a worst case scenario at a certain dollar amount; but there are no guarantees. He gave the example of an extremely heavy and/or long winter with a lot of overtime necessary for clearing the roads of snow, and that would definitely affect the situation; adjustments would need to be made.

Discussion continued as to a worst case scenario situation - as a last resort - if the Township needed to pull from the investment funds, it could only be used for a specific Department. It is considered a "community pot", so if money was needed for Roads, it could only go to the Road Department, etc. It would come out of their fund balance. This has been confirmed by both the Auditor's Office and the Prosecutor's Office.

At this time, with no further discussion, Trustee Cotner made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget; Trustee Searle seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Searle: Yes Cotner: Yes Kosch: Yes Motion Passed 3-0

With no further discussion, Trustee Cotner made a motion to adjourn; Trustee Kosch seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Searle: Yes Cotner: Yes Kosch: Yes Motion Passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.