

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE

Approved Minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting

October 12, 2018

Supervisor Kowall called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Lilley called the roll:

Present: Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
Mike Roman, Treasurer
Mike Powell, Trustee
Scott Ruggles, Trustee
Liz Smith, Trustee
Andrea Voorheis, Trustee

Also Present: Chief Dan Keller, Police Dept.
Chief Andrew Gurka, Fire Dept.
Elaine Homeister, Sr. Accounting Manager
Dawn Bockelman, Accounting Clerk
Amy Bertin, Recording Secretary

It was MOVED by Clerk Lilley, SUPPORTED by Trustee Ruggles to approve the Agenda. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (7 yes votes).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments by the Public at this time.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Supervisor Kowall stated tonight's Special Meeting was called to discuss the budget. If the Board members have any questions today for Elaine or Dawn, feel free to ask them now.

Trustee Powell. When the package is put together, is the initial package for each department based upon the previous year's budget?

Ms. Homeister responded the department heads are given historical worksheets. Only the personnel costs are completed and the rest is blank.

Trustee Powell. If they want additional personnel or to change status or levels, how does it get changed in the budget we see?

Ms. Homeister. If adjustments or changes are made to the staffing levels in any way, they

come back to her and she will rerun the numbers. A spreadsheet is kept with the costs.

Supervisor Kowall. Thanks to accounting and bookkeeping. They are the brains behind the operation.

If there are no further questions for them, at this time Chief Gurka will go over his budget and address any questions by the Board.

Chief Gurka, White Lake Fire Dept. At this time we are looking to balance out some of the shifts with managerial rank structure. The original budget didn't take into account reducing the number of sergeants to three. A new sheet was created showing three captains, three lieutenants, and three sergeants as the officer rank structure. The O4M are monies available for new projects and equipment. O4M had a component of it which allows funds to be used toward past new hires.

Trustee Powell has a concern regarding the SAFER Grant. It would be his suggestion to remove this item from the budget. As we have not gotten this grant, we will have to remind the Fire Dept. to remove it rather than them coming back and saying they got the grant, add the position. Do we want to remove that item or leave it in and amend the budget later?

Clerk Lilley supports Trustee Powell's position to remove it.

Supervisor Kowall would prefer to leave it as the budget is presented in the most conservative way in this manner.

Trustee Smith would support leaving it as it currently is in the budget.

Trustee Powell. There are two issues he has regarding this budget. It is a status quo budget. It is not anticipating any new firefighters, services to the township or goals to enhance the services for the residents. Station #3 needs to be manned in some fashion so the residents can't come in and say the whole northern half of the township isn't represented in the fire budget. It is disappointing there isn't a goal towards that end. We are bumping up existing personnel into additional spots that are going to cost the township funds and yet the general public doesn't perceive they're going to be getting anything for it. It might help the fire department management wise but there isn't any benefit to the residents.

Chief Gurka responded that there have been many goals which have been achieved in the past such establishing a Fire Prevention Bureau, providing new rescues and fire engines, improving the fire stations, adding some network capabilities, and working on a few new contracts. We've been working on the paid-on-call division to improve things. We are continuously trying to staff Station #3 by using FEO's that can work 12 hour shifts. We've improved on keeping

Station #2 open more often and on occasion opening up Station #3.

One of our goals is to build a new fire headquarters, to occupy the land the Dublin Center is on as a new Station #2 and expand Station #3 on its grounds. He did come up with a very elaborate ALS transporting proposal. It would be fantastic to be able to give ALS care to the citizens even prior to the arrival of the ambulance company but at this point it was turned down by the labor group. We've also been working on negotiations with the paid-on-call trying to improve the contract.

Trustee Powell would caution him and the Board that if we ask for an increased millage for a new police and fire station and half the community doesn't believe they are being served, they won't be willing to vote for a new station.

Chief Gurka stated in the present budget the paid-on-call wage line item has been beefed up so we can have part-time staffing. There is money at the ready for part-time shifts. Another potential strategy or solution would be to bring up to the paid-on-call union if their membership does not want to fill these positions we'll have to find another way to fill them. Unless we change the union contract, the staff needs to come out of the paid-on-call group.

Treasurer Roman suggested putting a spreadsheet together outlining what it will cost to man Station #3.

Trustee Powell. If we adopt this budget the way it is now, are we giving Chief Gurka permission to make the promotions in here? Knowing how tough it is to negotiate with the union, we're giving them a major benefit between contracts. When the contract comes up, they're not going to remember that. They are going to be hard on us and request improvements or wage increases at their new status, not where they are at now. It would be much wiser to wait until we are in negotiations to offer promotions.

Chief Gurka responded the reason for putting it in the budget now rather than waiting for the union negotiations is for many years the department has been out of balance with its rank structure and managerial abilities on each shift. He is trying to normalize and equalize things and stimulate the department by putting people in positions that are motivators. The rank bump-ups will benefit the department as a whole so he is proposing it now rather than waiting until the time of negotiations.

Supervisor Kowall commented that it is not so much the cost of labor increasing the budget, it is essentially significant equipment purchases.

Clerk Lilley noted he appreciated Trustee Powell's comments. It would have been helpful tonight to have gotten the information he obtained just before the meeting which was a list

indicating the current balances of the general operating budget, the O4M balance as well as a specific listing of the equipment acquisitions. He isn't sure on the chain of command issue this is the appropriate way to put forth a request to promote people. His personal preference would be to make this part of the negotiation process. The separation of funds would have been helpful. He will make available to all the Board members the information he was given this evening.

Also, it is time the Board review the current job descriptions for those positions that are being asked to be filled so we can be confident the job description of a captain is not the same as a lieutenant, nor do we expect lieutenants to do captain's jobs. It is absolutely necessary the Board reviews that information before we make a final decision on the fire budget.

Also, he did ask Chief Keller specifically within his budget whether there were any new additions from last year. The response was there were no new additions that were unknown to the Board.

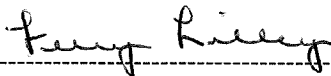
Chief Keller stated the only new addition was the ordinance for the tow fee. The price of gas has gone up so the amount in that line item has gone up. Other than that, it is status quo. He will be asking this November for the purchase of three 2019 SUVs for next year because in 2020 Ford is changing the SUVs to hybrid causing a price increase of \$4000 per car. The amount is in this budget but we will be ordering the SUVs early to effect a savings of \$12,000.

ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by Treasurer Roman, SUPPORTED by Trustee Voorheis to approve adjourning the meeting. The MOTION PASSED by a voice vote (7 yes votes).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

I, Terry Lilley, the duly elected and qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of White Lake, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the October 12, 2018 special board meeting minutes.



Terry Lilley, Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan