



ACME TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690
Monday, June 22, 2009 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT 6:30 P.M.

Members present: D. Dunville, R. Hardin, W. Kladder, P. Scott, E. Takayama, L. Wikle, F. Zarafonitis
Members excused: None
Staff present: S. Vreeland, Township Manager/Recording Secretary

- A. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:** None (nobody present)
- B. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None noted
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
Motion by Scott, support by Zarafonitis to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
1. Proposed General Appropriations Act (2009-10 Budget)

Public Hearing opened at 6:32 p.m.

Vreeland noted that the detailed memo describing how the budget was prepared line-by-line has been updated for the public hearing. Any changes to the proposed General Fund budget since the June 2 Board meeting are highlighted in yellow, and are minimal. The entire Special Funds section was new for this evening. At the last meeting, the Board was facing a potential deficit of approximately \$60,000. Through some proposed 09-10 appropriations reductions, and through moving some proposed expenditures discussed at the last meeting into the end of the current fiscal year we have been able to project a very modest surplus.

Two corrections to the spreadsheets were noted. In the Assessing cost center budget, one formula was not working correctly to add proposed expenditures. After correction, the total proposed expenditures for the year increased from \$36,431 to \$42,904. Also, under the Board of Trustees cost center, Vreeland was accidentally still showing a \$10,000 allocation for Clean Up day that the Board decided to cut on June 2. This reduced proposed expenditures in this cost center from \$196,407 to \$186,407. After correcting for these errors, the proposed initial budget surplus for the year (excepting the \$150,000 transfer to the Shoreline Preservation Fund that was promised by Board resolution and is likely to occur in June 2010) is a very lean \$3,561.

We are creating a second General Fund, into which we are moving the \$50,000 self-insurance funds prior to the end of this fiscal year. After consultation with our audit firm, this was deemed the appropriate way to handle this transaction. The self-insurance funds will remain part of the General Fund balance forward. They will be tracked and accounted for internally on our books as a separate, secondary General Fund, but for audit purposes will be shown as combined in to the General Fund according to new GASB accounting standards soon to take effect. Other township special funds that are not restricted to specific uses will also be combined into the General Fund in the annual audit under this rule, although we will continue to account for them separately internally.

Hardin noted that some money is being transferred to the Shoreline Preservation Fund from this year's budget. \$25,000 is being transferred immediately to be applied towards potential marina feasibility

studies that would be performed later this year as the township continues to evaluate whether to try to purchase the existing East Bay Harbor. The \$150,000 budgeted for transfer to the Shoreline Fund later in next fiscal year is what the Board already committed by resolution towards the closings on the Phase I properties. Hardin noted that at the outset of this project, the citizens putting it forward indicated that the project would be conducted with private funds and not public funds. He knows that we have committed some public funds to date, but wants to make sure that we are not committing any additional funds beyond that point at this time, since this is not the basis on which the project was "sold" to the public. Vreeland noted that the committee would like for the township to commit more General Fund money, but they have been told that we have gone as far as we can go at this time. The township and the Conservancy continue to actively apply to a variety of foundations for grant funds and to raise funds from private citizens. They may also soon wish to test whether or not a millage request for this purpose would be well received. Hardin is simply trying to ensure that right now, when the general understanding was that this project would not generally be funded with public tax dollars, that we are keeping to that promise until such time as a potential change in the situation is clearly explained to and approved by the public. Vreeland noted that it has been very important for the township to contribute a decent sum of money, as no grant making agency wants to make an award unless the applicant has "some skin in the game." It was generally agreed that any further use of or request for public money for the project would be very openly discussed first.

Kladder stated that he will be watching the budget closely and finding additional places to trim as we move forward into and through the coming fiscal year.

Zarafonitis asked about the Parks & Maintenance budget, and why the line item for repairs and maintenance would be going up from an original budget of \$16,400 this year to a projected \$25,000 next year; this is because we budgeted \$8,000 for Phragmites control for later this summer. The township is also part of two grant applications that may help support our control program.

Nothing has been budgeted for Gypsy Moth suppression this year, as there will be no county-wide spraying program. Given how many tents everyone is seeing in the trees, there is general surprise and concern about the lack of a spraying program.

Zarafonitis asked why so much was budgeted in the Sewer Fund for lease of extra treatment capacity at the regional sewage treatment plant. This is the amount the sewer fund cash flow spreadsheets estimate for those payments. Actual costs this year have come in closer to \$20,000. The cash flow spreadsheets are designed to estimate expenses a bit high. The Board must decide prior to December 2009 whether or not to continue leasing the extra capacity.

The Shoreline Preservation Fund was corrected to show payments to landowners of \$4,000,000 instead of just the \$3,006,200 of grant money we will receive from the DNR Trust Fund. We need to include our 25% match to that grant, which comes from a collection of other grants, private donations and the township's \$150,000. This is the approximately amount needed to purchase the three phase 1 properties (Van Zandt, Knopf, Coe). Negotiations with Mr. Van Zandt are ongoing and currently looking favorable.

The estimated payments to landowners in the Farmland Fund represent the projected closing on some of the Send development rights in July, and the potential additional purchase of some of the optioned properties if a 2008 Farm Bill grant we recently applied for came through. We also will soon be making our option payments. The White farming family has offered an additional 325 acres of land to the PDR program. Ken Engle has used the money from the purchase of his development rights to begin construction of his winery and installation of his vineyards.

Dunville asked about the Oil & Gas Lease Fund. This fund is not currently restricted to a specific purpose. Some of the public asked the Board to earmark money in this fund exclusively for use in the parks, but some others urged the Board to keep their options opened. Many Board members though they had earmarked this fund specifically for parks purposes. The Board asked that additional discussion about whether or not to restrict the use of this money, generated by signing non-developmental oil and gas leases on public parklands and perhaps in the future from actual mineral production, on the July 7 agenda.

Takayama noted that under the Planning & Zoning Cost center, no money has been budgeted under the Planning Consultant line item. He wondered if this is appropriate given that the Village at Grand

Traverse phase I application may be under review again soon. Vreeland stated that if the township uses a consultant such as John Iacoangeli to help review the application, the associated cost will be covered by the applicant through our fee escrow fund. A separate Planning Services line item contains \$19,600 remaining of \$25,000 the township committed several years ago for jointly hiring a consultant to plan a town center with various landowners. \$4,500 of this amount was expended with planning firm RTKL before the project was suspended. An additional \$25,000 received from the Tribal 2% grant fund is held in a segregated, restricted fund.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Takayama to adopt Resolution #R-2009-14, General Appropriations Act 2009-10 as amended. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

F. OLD BUSINESS: None

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider adoption of 2009-10 Fiscal Year Board Salary Resolutions: All salaries are planned to remain unchanged for the coming fiscal year.

a. **Supervisor:** Wikle wants to look closely at raising the Supervisor's salary back to a level more comparable with the other key officers.

Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Scott to adopt Resolution #R-2009-10 setting the Supervisor's salary for the 09-10 fiscal year. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Dunville, Hardin, Scott, Takayama, Wikle, Zarafonitis) 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Kladder).

b. **Clerk:**
Motion by Takayama, support by Wikle to adopt Resolution #R-2009-11 setting the Clerk's salary for the 09-10 fiscal year. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Takayama, Wikle, Zarafonitis) 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Dunville).

c. **Treasurer:**
Motion by Scott, support by Zarafonitis to adopt Resolution #R-2009-12 setting the Treasurer's salary for the 09-10 fiscal year. Motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor (Dunville, Hardin, Kladder, Scott, Takayama, Zarafonitis) 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Wikle).

d. **Trustees:**
Motion by Wikle, support by Dunville to adopt Resolution #R-2009-13 setting the Trustee salaries and per diem rates for the 09-10 fiscal year. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. Consider adoption of amendments to 2008-09 Fiscal Year budget:
Motion by Zarafonitis, support by Scott to adopt Resolution #R-2009-15, amendments to 2008-09 Fiscal Year budget as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT & OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:
None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.