



**ACME TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 6, 2009 11:00 a.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 11:15 a.m.

- Members present:** W. Mervau (Chair)(11:15) , L. Andres, M. Krakow, D. Nelson
S. Vreeland, Township Manager
- Members excused:** D. Hoxsie, J. Maitland, D. Smith
- Staff present:** Wayne Kladder, Township Supervisor
T. Henkel, Maintenance
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary

A. Consider approval of the minutes from the August 20, 2008, Advisory Meeting

MOTION BY VREELAND. SECONDED BY ANDRES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2008, MEETING . MOTION CARRIED.

B. Correspondence: None

C. Limited Public Comment: None

D. Reports: None

E. New Business

1. Discuss recommendation to Board of Trustees for proposed 2010 fiscal year Metro Fire Budget and Special Assessment rate

Committee members were given handouts of the 2009-10 Metro Fire proposed budget with an attached memo. Kladder explained some of the highlights of that memo. He said that Metro has applied for a \$3.4 million dollar federal grant to build Station #12 in Garfield Township. Metro Fire has made it through the first cut. The budget considers that Metro will receive the grant.

Kladder reported that the new station will be located on the corner of Secor and Silver Pines Road in Garfield Township. Metro Fire has a 50 year lease with Garfield Township. Currently Garfield cannot cover the whole township but with the new station they will be able to cover all of their territory.

Andres asked about the donation of property from The Village for a fire station in Acme Township. Kladder commented that we are waiting for Garfield to be up and running before pursuing a new station in Acme.

The budget reflects Station #12 opening October of 2010 and includes three months of operating expenses. Metro has held the line on all other expenses, and has moved certain necessary repair costs and new vehicle purchases to 2011.

Kladder said this budget reflects no increase in the current millage rate of 2.0 mils, however results in a 2010 deficit of \$127,000, primarily the result of the Station #12 operating costs. The deficit could be covered by an increase in the 2009 fund balance, resulting from lowering the general funds contribution to the public improvement fund of the same amount.

Vreeland asked how much was in Fund balance. Kladder was unable to find the information so a call to Chief Parker resulted with the information of \$600,000.00.

Andres commented that Acme needs to bring in new growth. He mentioned two young families in Springbrook subdivision who will be losing their homes in the near future because of lost jobs. He said there are eleven empty buildings in Acme township where business have left. He said Howard Schelde from Travinov would sell if the offer was right. Andres did say that the Horses by the Bay generated a lot of income for the area businesses. He also said that Horses by the Bay hired local workers. Andres feels the township has deteriorated in the last ten years.

Mervau talked about the improvements to equipment, more training which all helps in a better level of care. Kladder talked about a response time of six minutes as a goal. Krakow talked about educating and informing the public. He is not against a millage but wants to know why an increase is needed. Kladder said that we have a Public Safety instructor at Metro Fire that works with teaching fire, water safety, how to prevent accidents. We need to expand the education to teach residents the services provided by Metro Fire.

There was discussion about generating more income for Metro Fire. Several options were discussed. Krakow said we need to look at all options that other fire stations are using to generate income. Nelson has a friend in Glen Arbor Township and he will ask him about their fee schedule.

Vreeland suggested looking at the township fire fund. She said there is currently a balance of \$271,000.00. This money comes from special assessment. We pay quarterly payments to Metro Fire. After we see what other townships have in their fire fund we could eliminate the fire fund. This would help with cash flow shortage in Metro Fire.

MOTION BY NELSON TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE ANNUAL EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LEVY BE SET AT 2.25 MILS, WITH 2 MILS ALLOCATED TO METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AND 0.25 MILS ALLOCATED TO COMMUNITY POLICING, AND TO FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT THE PROJECTED METRO REVENUE SHORTFALL BE COVERED IN ONE OF TWO WAYS: 1) USE FUNDS FROM METRO FUND BALANCE FORWARD (*The deficite would in fact be covered by an increae in the 2009 fund balance, resulting from lowering the general funds contribution to the public imporvement fund of the same amount See Memo from Metro dated July 30, 2009*) OR 2) IF EACH METRO MEMBER TOWNSHIP STILL HAS ITS OWN FIRE FUND FOR EACH TOWNSHIP TO CONTRIBUTE TO METRO FROM THAT FUNDA PRO-RATA SHARE OF THE SHORTFALL AMOUNT ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT FUNDING FORMULA. SECONDED BY VREELAND. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.