

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of a Board Workshop
Held October 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

A Board Workshop of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Treasurer Barton, Trustees Howe, Raymo, Manor and Janssens.

Others

Present: Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro, Chief Cherney, Captain Dave Nadeau and six (6) audience members.

Supervisor Barron reminded everyone that this is only a Workshop, not a Board Meeting; therefore, no Board action can be taken today. The purpose is to discuss the Proposed 2023 Budget, ARPA Funds and Employee Wages. The notice was posted to the doors on Friday, September 30, 2022.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro reviewed the individual departments and noted that there weren't many changes to the budgets. The Township is estimated to receive a slight increase in State Shared Revenue. Marijuana excise tax funds are not included at this time as we do not know what that amount will be. The \$5,000 Marijuana licensing fees were discussed and the Board was advised that since the fees are from a restricted fund, attorney fees and Employee hours relating to marijuana work are being tracked for audit purposes.

Treasurer Barton mentioned that she received a bill for drains at large and the amount billed was \$517,000. She also mentioned that she, Clerk Smith and Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro had a meeting regarding the bond that will have to be taken out and wanted to make sure that the Board is aware that we cannot lease or finance anything or it will negatively affect the bond.

Treasurer Barton also mentioned that 2023 is a year of maintenance for the Fire Department. The privacy fence at Station #1 is falling apart. She received a quote from Southeastern Fencing for wood and vinyl privacy fencing.

ARPA FUNDS

The Township has received all of the ARPA Funds and a small portion of the funds used were for the digital sign at the Township Hall. The Building Department truck is on order and that will also be paid for by the ARPA Funds. We are waiting on the Engineering costs associated with Fire Station #2 repairs, parking lot repairs and repaving at the Township Hall, Barron's Way and Custer Ballfields. The park project has been priced out but may be different now due to the time lapse on the initial quote. Clerk Smith will contact Penchura for an updated quote.

The lack of storage for secure documents was brought up and the addition to the Township Hall and remodel of the Building Department that was discussed at a previous Workshop.

EMPLOYEE WAGES

Treasurer Barton suggested a 3% bonus rather than a pay raise to keep legacy costs down and reminded the Board that we are the only municipality to pay 100% of Employee benefits. Trustee Raymo disagreed and felt that we should continue with the 3% wage increases to keep up with inflation. Trustee Howe also agreed with that and stated that we should keep up with the cost of living. Clerk Smith stated that we have tenured employees that are critical in our day to day functions and that we should continue with raises.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Cherney presented the Board with a list of things that he would like to accomplish or purchase for the Fire Department. He asked what he needed to do to get shift work going? Supervisor Barron advised him that he needed to review the personnel policy and let him know of any changes that need to be made.

It was discussed that it may be easier to get workers on an 8 hour shift rather than 12-hour shifts. We need to consider doing EMS rather than just Fire Fighters since a majority of the calls are medical. A suggestion was made by Treasurer Barton to give the paid-on call Fire Fighters a 10% bonus as was given in the past. Clerk Smith suggested an incentive bonus on top of that for meeting goals that are to be set. The Board needs to be conservative when starting shift work to be sustainable if the fire millage doesn't pass again. Advised Chief Cherney to meet with his officers and fire fighters to come up with a solid plan that can be brought to the Board for a vote.

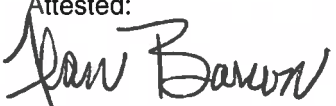
Fire Inspector Schmitt stated that he is looking towards retirement and would like to get another inspector in to be certified and trained.

Trustee Howe gave the Board a potential new report for the Fire Chief to give at the monthly Board Meetings. He would like to know where the budget is and what expenditures are anticipated in addition to the number of calls and average response time. The report would also outline the inspections completed on the fleet and any maintenance or costs for repairs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A few Fire Fighters were present and had questions and concerns about the potential shift work. They offered some insight and would like to be involved in the process.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Attested:


Alan Barron, Supervisor
Monroe Charter Township



Christina Smith, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township