

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Board Workshop Minutes
October 10, 2023
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 10, 2023 in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

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

Excused: Trustee Manor

Others

Present: Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro, Assistant Chief Broman and five (5) audience members.

Supervisor Barron reminded everyone that this is only a Workshop, not a Board Meeting; therefore, no Board actions can be taken today. The purpose is to discuss the proposed 2024 Budget, ARPA Funds, Employee wages, Fire Department and proposed road projects. The notice was posted to the front and back doors on September 27, 2023 and posted on the Township website and Facebook on September 29, 2023.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Sheriff Goodnough presented to the Board a sample of speed sign data. While discussing the many complaints his office is receiving about speeding in many of the neighborhoods within Monroe Charter Township. He feels that a portable sign will help slow drivers down and offered to move the speed sign every 7 days while also retrieving the data from it at no charge for the first year. He also offered to store it offsite at the 911 storage building. The Sheriff also discussed the increase in calls his office is receiving and the possibility of hiring a 3rd contract Deputy for the Township.

Increasing semi traffic on Dunbar Road and Albain Road that are not truck routes was brought up. Sheriff Goodnough will look into it and notify the Supervisor.

2024 BUDGET REVIEW

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro presented the Board with a balanced budget for the 2024 Fiscal year. There are not many significant increases overall. However, there are some departments seeing significant increases one being Elections. Clerk Smith advised the Board that with the passage of Proposal 22-2 there are many changes one being 9 days of early in person voting that is impacting the budget due to additional staffing for all State and Federal elections. Staff overtime and the potential to purchase required equipment to comply with the new Constitutional changes.

The Fire Department is also showing a substantial increase in budget and that is primarily due to the increase in runs and the addition of firefighters. Increasing hourly wages or offering an incentive bonus to increase call response from the firefighters was discussed.

Chadd Johnson, President of the Monroe Charter Township Firefighters Association presented the Board with a request to consider increasing the monthly payment from \$2,350 to \$3,000 per month and noted that it has

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2024 BUDGET REVIEW (con't)

been the same since 2004. He explained that the association would like to do more community outreach such as CPR classes for the public as well as recruitment and donations to the Fire Cadet Program.

Assistant Chief Broman presented a list of items on behalf of Chief Cherney for the 2024 budget year including new turnout gear, a pay raise per call, arterial screenings, utility truck, rescue boat, pagers with amplifier chargers, portable radios, SCBA air fill station and a digital sign to be paid out of the millage.

Supervisor Barron advised the Board that Sheriff Goodnough gave him an estimate for the cost of an additional contract Deputy in the amount of \$107,275.00 if the Board is interested in hiring another Deputy.

Assessor Cathy Cousineau made a request that the Board consider purchasing a vehicle for her department because of the amount of field work that is continually being done. She feels that it is safer to have a marked vehicle. Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro expressed agreement with the need for a vehicle for that department. She stated that it is the only department that uses personal vehicles for work on a regular basis.

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro stated that the Roads budget is another area where there is a substantial increase and that's due to the pump assessments in the Bolles Harbor area. 2024 will be the first year of 20 for installments on that assessment.

Supervisor Barron advised the Board that he, the Clerk and the Township Engineer Mannik and Smith met with the Road Commission and have included a list of road projects suggested which include Albain Road, Goutz Road, Northwood Villa/Woodside, Southfield Village, N. Monroe Miscellaneous Plats (Bacon, etc), Southpoint Square and Leedy's Gardens. The total for these projects is \$906,200.00. LaPlaisance Road will also be done next year from the roundabouts to the railroad tracks and will be paid for by the Road Commission.

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro gave a breakdown of the allocated and spent ARPA funds to date and pointed out that any changes to allocations must be done before December 31, 2023 and it must be expensed by 2026.

The Fiscal Officer also pointed out that she is requesting changes in fixed equipment and furniture because the Township needs to consider purchasing more ergonomically correct furniture for those that are at a desk all day.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Attested:



Alan Barron, Supervisor
Monroe Charter Township



Christina Smith, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township