

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of a Budget Workshop
Held November 13, 2018
6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

A Budget Workshop of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2018 in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Barron, Clerk Schnurr, Treasurer Barton, Trustees Blank, Heck, Manor and Pancone.

Others

Present: Fire Chief Merkle and five people in attendance.

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 2019 budget. The notice was posted on November 9, 2018 on the Doors and Website and also in the Monroe News on November 13, 2018

2019 Proposed Budget

Clerk Schnurr went over the proposed 2019 Budget proposal which allows for projected revenues and expenses. The 2019 budget reflects a decrease of \$63,909 in both, revenues and expenditures.

He explained that the State Shared Revenue distributions show a slight increase for 2019, based upon the state's projected revenues for January-September of 2019 and local taxes from the Township millage are also showing a slight increase for 2019. The overall budget reflects a decrease of \$63,909 in both, revenues and expenditures.

Treasurer Barton brought up her concerns on a possible future decrease in state revenue sharing.

Fiscal Officer recommended a 3% employee pay raise. There was discussion that this increase might be too high. Treasurer Barton stated that employees have been receiving a 3% pay raise a year for the past 10 years and she would like to see employee pay rates capped. She brought up that the City of Monroe is advertising for a new Building and Zoning Inspector with a pay rate of \$21 to \$32 per hour. She said the County of Monroe no longer gives pay increases, but instead pays out a bonus at the of the year. Employee pay increases will be looked at further. Clerk Schnurr mentioned that the budget is a guide and each wage item would have to be brought to the board for approval.

Discussion on a request for an additional Maintenance Department part time employee for summer months.

Trustees Heck and Blank brought up adding an additional Blight Inspector during peak months due to a serious increase in the work load. Some board members were surprised at the low amount of pay our current Blight Inspector/Commissioner of Noxious Weeds was making.

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MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP
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There was much discussion on the future needs for the Fire Department:

- Discussion on a call run pay increase of \$4.00 per run for night shift from 11:00 pm until 7:00 am. on a 90 day trial basis.
- Discussion on an hourly pay to lock in anytime a call run exceeds one hour on scene. Fire Department will provide Fiscal Officer with a detailed written plan request by November 15, 2018.
- Discussion on a possible millage request to the voters in 2020 to pay for a new \$1,300,000 ladder truck to replace current ladder.
- Fire Department Officers said that it is getting really difficult to have enough volunteer fire fighters to respond during night calls.
- There was discussion on the frustration with mutual aid with the city, when they respond to the Township they always leave the scene quickly, but when we respond to the City we get stuck remaining on the scene.
- There was discussion on large increase for first responder calls, especially when a large percentage of them arrive on scene at the same time as the Monroe County Ambulance Service. Other are for Creekside Village where it is a known problem that the smoke alarms are not properly place in the housing units causing false emergency alarms and Creekside will not correct the problem. It was also discussed to look at an ordinance for cost recovery for these types of alarms.

All questions from Board members and Public were addressed.

It was agreed to forward the Board recommended proposed 2019 Budget to the November 20, 2018 Public Budget Hearing at 6:45 p.m. and to place on the November 20, 2018 agenda for adoption consideration.

Clerk Schnurr notified the board that he plans to retire at the end of 2019 and to relocate out of state.

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Bob Schnurr, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township

Attested:



Alan Barron, Supervisor
Monroe Charter Township