

Trustees & Clerk
(513) 722-3400

Zoning
(513) 722-3400

Service Department
(513) 722-4600



www.goshen-oh.gov

Police
(513) 722-3200

Fire & E.M.S.
(513) 722-3473
or
(513) 722-3500

**Special Meeting of the Goshen Township
Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 28, 2012 - 4:00 P.M.**

Meeting Minutes

Opening

Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Honorable Lisa Allen
Honorable Ray Autenrieb
Honorable Lisa Allen

Ray Autenrieb called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. Lisa Allen led in prayer. The pledge was recited; and roll was taken.

Ray Autenrieb; present. Bob Hausermann; present. Claire Corcoran; present.

Adoption of Agenda

42-2012 Bob Hausermann motioned to adopt the Agenda. Claire Corcoran seconds the motion; motion carries.

Ray Autenrieb; Yes Bob Hausermann; Yes Claire Corcoran; Yes

New Business

The 2012 Budget for Police, Service Department and Zoning was presented by Ray Snyder.

Ray Snyder started by saying, understanding the huge deficit, its time we stop kicking the can down the road. We have to stop going through the General Fund. Its time to make some tough decisions.

The February requests are \$598,554.99 over projected revenue. After we use unencumbered funds we have got it down to around \$491,000.00. Still red ink.

Fire Department is 16% over budget compared to revenue

Police Department is 14% over budget compared to revenue

Road and Cemetery is 15% over budget compared to revenue. The only thing that throws them over budget is the Hillside project.

Zoning Department is 92% over budget compared to revenue. It was projected they would bring in approximately \$15,000.00, but realistically, it would be about \$10,000.00. If it is going to take \$125,000.00 to run and they only bring in \$10,000.00. It is going to take \$115,000.00 out of your General Funds just to keep your Zoning Department in tact. Essential services are Safety Services. The Zoning Department is not an essential service. In order to have a strong township we need excellent schools and good public services

General Fund is 17% under budget compared to revenue and you should want to keep it that way.

If you choose to adopt the budget and transfer \$490,000.00 from the General Fund, that would leave you with a balance of \$403,000.00 which will put you in fiscal emergency.

Claire Corcoran asked about the percentage for fiscal emergency. Claire asked if it was 60%.

Lisa Allen responded by stating she called the Auditor and he said if we are at 12% it would be fiscal watch and 6% for fiscal emergency. They will not do anything to help you unless you are in fiscal emergency. She stated that the Auditor will come in and work with us when we get to fiscal watch at a rate of \$60.00 per hour.

Police Fund

Ray Snyder presented the budget cuts for the Police Department. The Police Fund asked for a new car. I have cut that out of the budget, with a savings of \$27,000.00. He is opposed to cutting pay by 3%. There is a Detective who will be retiring June 1, 2012 at a salary of \$84,000.00 which includes benefits. That position will not be filled. That brings the total cut for the Police Fund to \$62,610.00. There is a part time officer leaving as well. If you add that to the budget, it takes the deficit to approximately \$70,000.00.

Ray Snyder stated the officers have already assumed the workload for Detective Lacey, they will be assuming the work load from Detective Penn and also the part time officer which makes it very difficult to deliver a good project.

Lisa Allen asked if that would cause an increase in overtime. Ray Snyder stated there is no overtime in the Police Department. They get comp time at time and a half.

Jim Constable asked about the unencumbered funds.

Ray Snyder responded by stating that includes all unencumbered funds.

Steve Pegram stated that if we make all these cuts as proposed and we use up all of our unencumbered funds then we will have no unencumbered.

Total cuts from the Police Fund is \$62,610.00.

Fire/EMS

Fire Chief Steve Pegram stated we have a revenue problem not a budget problem. He was hired to have a safe work place and keep the township safe for residents

Steve Pegram presented the cuts for Fire/EMS. In those cuts the \$1,000.00 raise for Fire Chief Steve Pegram was eliminated. Reduce part time coverage and eliminate part-time employee physicals. This would be a reduction of the proposed budget of \$49,216.00.

Ray Snyder stated there are three issues.

- 1) The union contract needs to be re-negotiated.
- 2) There is no revenue coming in.
- 3) The safety culture that happens by eliminating part time employee physicals.

Claire Corcoran asked about requiring fire fighters to obtain physicals on their own.

Steve Pegram explained the physicals that they would be getting would not be as extensive as the one they would get if it was through the township.

Ray Autenrieb asked about filling all three shifts. Steve Pegram said the openings in a shift can be picked up by part time employees. The union contract allows for part time employees to replace full time employees.

Claire Corcoran expressed concern about part time employee physicals being eliminated. Ray Snyder felt the township is compromising safety and welfare. Ray Autenrieb agreed with Claire. Bob Hausermann stated he believes that all agree that cutting the physicals for part time employees is a bad idea and would not agree to cutting it from the budget.

Total cut from the Fire/EMS is \$49,216.00.

Road and Cemetery

Ray Snyder presented the cuts for the Road and Cemetery budget.

- 1) No 4% pay increase.
- 2) Postpone hillside repair in the cemetery. Ray Snyder stated the problem will only get worse and cost more.

Claire Corcoran asked if the township had anything worked out with Clermont County. Ray Snyder explained the County would be doing the engineering part of the Hillside Pinning Project.

Ray Autenrieb suggested closing the entrance from traffic. David Steele explained there are no open graves on that side. Bob Hausermann walked the area and found the back side was not slipping too bad. Bob Hausermann feels the township should look at this as a future project.

Claire Corcoran recommended looking into a five year plan regarding cost.

Total cuts from Road and Cemetery is \$42,185.00.

Zoning

Ray Snyder presented to the Board budget cuts for Zoning Department.

- 1) Eliminate Zoning Director position
- 2) Eliminate Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer
- 3) Maintain the Zoning Inspector position, but cut hours to 24 hours per week.

This would make the total cuts for Zoning \$119,000.00

Claire Corcoran asked if we have duties for the Zoning Director and is there a time study being done.

Bob Hausermann stated there would be no 4% pay increase and is against cutting Zoning Director position.

This would make total cuts from Zoning Department is \$101,000.00.

Ray Snyder summed it up by stating:

2012 General Fund Unencumbered funds is \$894,287.11.

2012 General Fund if approve what is proposed is \$754,846.24

Ray Snyder stated the he would not suggest going below that mark. Claire Corcoran agreed.

Steve Pegram explained why cutting Zoning was a safety issue. Steve Pegram stated that the township is not required to have zoning. He stated he has a problem as an employee and as a resident to cut safety services, but fund a department that is not required.

Claire Corcoran suggested a five year forecast to include all departments with no capital improvements.

Bob Hausermann felt that we were living out of our means for awhile therefore the Zoning/Planning Director was eliminated which saved \$100,000.00. We have money coming in for revenue and to cut the Zoning Director may be premature. He agreed there should be no layoffs from the Fire Department and only make Zoning Department part time to prevent layoffs.

Jeff Corcoran asked about physicals for part time employees.

Steve Pegram stated they are required to have a copy of the physical in order to work for the Fire/EMS department. There are 40 physical per year which adds up to \$18,000.00.

Jeff Corcoran asked about Property Maintenance Code Enforcer not having funding.

Bob Hausermann stated he wanted the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer and the code left in tact, but not funded.

Jeff Corcoran asked about insurance companies paying less for EMS runs.

Steve Pegram stated that township residents are soft billed. Non-township residents are billed, but most do not pay. It is basically a write off.

Jim Constable asked about health care for Kathy Alley. He was told that Kathy Alley is in the opt-out plan and does not receive health care benefits from the township. He also asked about the unencumbered funds for Fire/EMS. He also stated that the unencumbered funds in the Road and Cemetery department can't be used because they are restricted funds. Jim asked the Trustees to have the article in the paper regarding the budget corrected. He also asked about the Zoning Department Director. Salary transferred from General Fund to Zoning Department. Need Zoning Director to do all 3 jobs. Combine jobs. He also stated he tried to get copies of the Fire Department payroll and was unable to obtain them. He stated there was a fireman that made over \$70,000.00 per year. He suggested they look at overtime in the Fire Department and cut it.

Steve Pegram explained they had to pay out comp time for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011. Two Assistant Chief positions were eliminated. The Captain assumed some of those duties that were done by salary personnel which resulted in over time.

- 43-2012** Claire Corcoran motioned to continue working on the budget and a five year forecast. Bob Hausermann seconds the motion; motion carries.

Ray Autenrieb; Yes Bob Hausermann; Yes Claire Corcoran; Yes

- 44-2012** Bob Hausermann motioned to set the next budget meeting for Saturday March 10, 2012 at 9:00 AM. Claire Corcoran seconds the motion; motion carries.

Ray Autenrieb; Yes Bob Hausermann; Yes Claire Corcoran; Yes


Adjournment

- 45-2012** Bob Hausermann motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. Claire Corcoran seconds the motion; motion carries.

Ray Autenrieb; Yes Bob Hausermann; Yes Claire Corcoran; Yes

Respectfully Submitted by:


Lisa Allen, Fiscal Officer


Goshen Township Trustee

LMA/tad