

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

Minutes

Special Meeting - Workshop Budget Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

13 Present

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 10:00 am – Shearer
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - Shearer
- III. Roll Call of Officers Present: Almose, Nichol, Shaw, Shearer and Shoemaker all present.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda – Shearer - **Motion** to adopt agenda by Nichol, supported by Shearer. Roll Call: Nichol, Shearer, Almose, Shaw, and Shoemaker, all yeas. Motion carried.
- V. Discussion General Fund Budget –
 1. General
 - a. Discussion began with pension for the 2023 – 2024 FY; have employees pay into pension at 3.5%, get rid of pension altogether and both township and employees will pay social security at 6.2%, pay into pension at 7.5%. **Motion** by Shoemaker to terminate our pension plan, supported by Shearer. Roll Call Vote: Shoemaker, Shearer, Almose, Shaw, all yeas, Nichol no. Motion carried.
 - b. Discussion of Budget amendments necessary for the FY 2022 – 2023 General Fund budget. **Motion** by Shoemaker to approve the following budget adjustments for FY 2022 – 2023: move \$3,000 from 101-265-970.000 to 101-101-802.000 and to add line item 101-635-735.001 with a budget of \$11,376.81 (increasing the total GF budget \$11,376.81), supported by Almose. Roll call: Shoemaker, Almose, Shaw, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas.
 - c. Discussion on FY 2023 – 2024 budget figures. Shoemaker presented proposed budget changes by reducing all expenditures by 25%. As many costs within many categories are hard costs (for example: insurance costs, printing tax and assessing bills, programming for elections), this is not attainable. Discussion ensued. Nichol trimmed the Clerk and Election budgets. **Motion** by Shearer to accept the letter from Almose to lower her Treasurer's salary 25% for one year (2023 – 2024 FY), supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Shearer, Shoemaker, Almose, Shaw, Nichol all yeas. Motion carried. **Motion** by Shearer to accept the letter from Shoemaker to reduce his Trustee salary 25% for one year (2023 – 2024 FY), supported by Shaw. Roll call: Shearer, Shaw, Shoemaker, Almose and Nichol all yeas. Motion Carried. **Motion** by Shearer to accept the letter from Shaw to lower her Trustee salary by 25% for one year (2023 – 2024 FY), supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Shearer, Shoemaker, Shaw, Almose and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried. **Motion** to amend Meeting pay and court pay for 2023 – 2024 FY to \$50 per meeting and court pay (down from \$60), Planning Secretary to be \$100 per meeting

(down from \$120) supported by Almose. Roll call: Shaw, Almose, Shoemaker, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried. Mileage was discussed but ended with no change. **Motion** by Almose to end Sheriff's contract as of August 2023, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call vote: Almose, Shoemaker, Shaw, Shearer all yeas, Nichol no. Motion carried. Shearer will send a letter to Sheriff stating Blue Lake Township is ending the contract so he has a heads up for scheduling deputies and for budgeting purposes.

VI. Discussion of Special Fund Budgets -

1. Highway

- a. No Budget amendment necessary for FY 2022 – 2023.
- b. Discussion on FY 2023– 2024 budget figures. It was thought not all figures were available for next years projects, Nichol requested and received a final figure.

2. Fire

- a. No Budget amendment necessary for the FY 2022 – 2023.
- b. Discussion on FY 2023 – 2024 budget figures. Chief offered up \$50 stipend to be rescinded saving \$8,050 per year. Shoemaker presented a motion to reduce Command Staff salaries by 50% with no second. **Motion** by Almose to reduce command staff salaries by 25%, supported by Shoemaker. Discussion: Chief: I have a contract with this board through 2024. Nichol: we are in breach of our contract with the Chief. What are the repercussions? The Chief's expenditure budget is under revenues. A 25% cut feels retaliatory, punitive, and a punishment. Shaw: we have passed a motion to pay the Chief through 2024 but we have no written contract. If firefighters leave, we will deal with that. We can put a meeting together and discuss salary/contract. Roll call vote: Almose, Shoemaker, Shaw all yeas. Nichol, Shearer both no. Motion carried. Shaw: I wouldn't change the budget salary line items. Nichol: the vote stands unless Almose wants to offer a change to her motion. No comment from Almose. Nichol: the budget will be redone for tomorrow's meeting. The stipend was not rescinded but that would have saved \$8,050 out of the \$11,100 Almose predicted. Chief: I would like to discuss the 17 days required per month. At a 25% pay decrease means I will work less. **Motion** by Almose to require the Chief and officers work together to develop a standard operating procedure for 24-hour coverage. Once developed, the fire department should present it to the Board for official approval. If consensus can't be reached for SOP on 24-hour coverage, issues will be brought to the Board to be decided. The SOP is to come to the July 12th board meeting. Supported by Shoemaker. Discussion: Nichol: the Chief just went over the officers discussion and decision. This is not an administrative guideline and we are not to infringe on this type of decision per attorney letter dated 6/2/2023. Roll call: Almose, Shoemaker, Shaw yea, Nichol and Shearer no. Motion carried.

3. Trash

- a. Budget amendment necessary for the FY 2022 – 2023 due to contracts. Contract for trash pickup was substantially increased by the vendor. **Motion** by Almose to increase 226-000-818.000 by

\$8,000 for a total expenditure budget of \$95,800.00, supported by Shoemaker. Roll call: Almoose, Shoemaker, Shaw, Shearer, and Nichol all yeas. Motion carried.

b. Discussion on FY 2023 – 2024 budget figures.

4. Township Improvement

a. No budget amendments necessary for FY 2022 - 2023.

b. Discussion on FY 2023 – 2024 budget figures.

VII. Public Input – Public was part of the discussion throughout the budget process; both asking questions and providing comments.

VIII. Board Comments and Input

1. Finalized budget figures will be presented at the regular board meeting to be held on 6/7/2023 at the township hall at 7:00 pm.

IX. Adjournment

1. **Motion** to adjourn at 3:04 pm by Nichol, supported by Shearer, motion carried.