6:30 PM 2024-2025 Budget meeting

Revenue

The budget hearing opened for the fiscal years 2024 – 2025 by Supervisor Ron Bailey.

The revenue in catagories Escrow, Interest, Licenses – Permits, Miscellaneous, Rents – Royalities, School Tax Collection, State of Michigan Revenue Sharing, will be staying the same as last year. The revenue in Catagories Taxes, Tax AD Fee, Senior Allocation,Use of General Fund and Cemetery were all expected to increase slightly. For a total expected collected revenue, of $420,440.00.

Disburesements/Expenses

Adjustments were made in the expenses to cover expected costs in several catagories to balance the budget with expected expenses to match the expected revenue of $420,440.00.

Clerk Sargent moved to approve the balanced budget as presented with expected revenue matching the expected expenses of $420,440.00. Anderson suported the motion. Roll call vote: Anderson – yes

Dufresne – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Bailey – yes. The budget was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Harris explained that the Township should keep 6 months of operating expenses held in reserve, which would be $225,000.00. Harris also stated that the General Fund has decreased $17,000.00 over the past year due to increased expenses such as increase in the insurance cost and attorney fees.

Harris moved to close the budget hearing at 6:55 pm. Anderson supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Budget hearing closed at 6:55 PM.

The meeting of the White River Township Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Ron Bailey with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: Ronald Bailey Supervisor, Patti Sargent Clerk, Deb Harris Treasurer, Laura Anderson & George Dufresne Trustees, all members in attendance.

1. Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Bailey requested that 4. Special order of Business address the newly approved budget. Sargent moved to approve the amended agenda. Anderson supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The amended agenda stands approved.
2. Approval of February 12, 2024, Township Board meeting minutes. Harris requested one correction. In #8, changing making amendments to the budget, not to accounts payable. Harris moved to approve the amended minutes; Dufresne supported the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The amended minutes are approved.
3. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each. none
4. Special Order of Business: (Comments by Board Members) Newly approved Budget for 2024- 2025. The White River Township Board has approved a balanced budget for the fiscal year of 2024 – 2025 of $420,440.00.
5. Old (Unfinished) Business:
   1. Primary election FEB 27, 2024 results. Sargent reported that there was one voter that took advantage of the early voting in Muskegon. 219 in person at the Township voters and 222 absentee voters, with 3 av balots received after election day which were unable to be counted. There was one overseas voter that sent in their ballot which was counted.
   2. ZBA meeting March 4, 2024 results. Supervisor Bailey reported that the 10 foot variance that was requested was denied on Indian Point Road.
   3. Board of Review open hearings set for Wednesday, March 13th  9am – 3pm and Thursday, March 14th     1pm – 4pm  & 6pm – 9pm. This is the time to get answers to questions you may have regarding your homes assessment or property taxation.
6. New Business:
   1. Sports and Shorts cost. This is a program for local children which is supported by White River Township and Montague Township. If another municipality joined in to support the cost, the portion each would pay would decrease. Currently the cost is $2250 for both White River Township and Montague Township.
   2. Hancock Road. Repaving Hancock Road was discussed. The Muskegon County Road Commission would like to know as soon as possible if we would like to add repaving a road to their agenda so they can get the repaving on the schedule. Supervisor Bailey made a motion to spend $106,000.00 out of the General Fund to repave Hancock Road from Lamos Road to Indian Bay Road, and see if they would fix up Hancock Road past Old Channel Trail at no additional cost to us. Anderson supported the motion. Roll Call Vote. Defresne – yes, Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Bailey – yes. The Towhship Board has approved the repaving of Hancock Road in this coming fiscal year. Supervisor Bailey will contact the Muskegon County Road Commission and let them know that we are willing to proceed with the repaving of Hancock road from Lamos Road to Indian Bay Road.
   3. Planning and Zoning Commission Bylaws. The Bylaws have been approved by the Planning Commission and are being sent to the White River Township Board for approval. Harris moved to approve the Planning Commission Bylaws as written. Sargent supported the motion to approve. All in favor. None opposed. Planning Commission ByLaws are approved.
7. Reports:
   1. Financial February 2024 report: Harris Noted
   2. Zoning: Howell/Schmiege 7 recent calls, some easy, some more complicated. He is doing the research necessary to know and follow the ordinances.
   3. Solid Waste: Harris: Saturday May 4, 2024, Pride days tickets are available. They are free to White River Residents however, only one per property, each are worth $25.00. No holdovers and if you take more than $25 worth, you will be responsible to pay the balance. What can be taken in is on the ticket. You must sign up to get a ticket and the list of people that received tickets will be given to the attendants. White River Township will get charged $25 for each ticket used. Tickets are available at Board meetings and Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm.
   4. CEIC / recent meetings: Anderson: CEIC is working on obtaining a grant. There are upcoming meeting by zoom.
   5. Recycling: Goericke none
   6. Planning Commission. Lloyd: Sargent reported for Lloyd. Work continues on the Master Plan, Maps of the Zoning and of the Roads current state, “private, unpaved, paved, etc.” are being updated. Code Enforcement Officers list of complaints. Short Term Rental Ordinance work continues. The welcoming of a new member Stephen Niezgoda (who replaced Craig Harris long time member who left to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.)
   7. Ambulance: Anderson wages and benefits are being evaluated.
   8. Fire Authority: Bailey Clean Audit, planning to build another secure building behind the Fire Barn for storage. There will be a plaque presented to Mike Cockerill for his years of service on the Fire Board.
   9. Accounts Payable: Sargent/ Goericke (net meter (roof top Solar Power) credit for

February was $2.46). The Accounts Payable totaling $19,512.00 was presented with the caveat that this list is not complete, Board of Review meetings will be included and any other bills that come in that can be paid will be paid in this fiscal year. Harris stated that the insurance payment has increased.

Harris made a motion to move $7,022 from attorney in Township Board to Insurance, to cover the increase in premium. Anderson supported the motion.

Roll call vote: Dufresne – yes, Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Bailey – yes. The Township Board has approved the motion.

Harris moved to approve the Accounts Payable as presented. Dufresne supported the motion.

Roll call vote: Dufresne – yes, Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Bailey – yes. The Township Board has approved the Accounts Payable as presented totaling $19,512.00.

Harris moved to approve the payment of any other bills “or payroll” that can be paid in this month of March. Anderson supported the motion.

Roll call vote: Dufresne – yes, Anderson – yes, Harris – yes, Sargent – yes, Bailey – yes. The Township Board has approved the payment of bills “or payroll expenses” to the end of March.

1. Other Business or Correspondence: none
2. Public comment: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Lauren Wackernagel, 10137 Old Highway 99. Lauren stated she lives in the middle of the proposed solar array and stated that the future is uncertain. She encouraged the Township to stay strong and support the Ordinance.

Melissa Lorenze, North Old Channel Trail, Discussed the statewide initiative put forward by the Citizens for Local Choice, encouraging everyone to sign the petition so the initiative can be put on the ballot in the November election so the voters can decide.

1. Adjournment: Harris moved to adjourn. Dufresne supported the motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

*Patti Sargent*

Patti Sargent, Clerk