Maidencreek Township Special Board of Supervisors Meeting
November 21, 2022

Attending: Supervisors David Franke; Heidi Fiedler; Joshua Meck; Hunter Ahrens, Township Manager; and Keith Shuman, Road Foreman.

Guests included: Several members of the public including Fire Chief Dan Miller.

David Franke called the Monday, November 21, 2022, Maidencreek Township Special Meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the Maidencreek Township Building, 1 Quarry Road, Blandon. The meeting began with the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the agenda. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

New Business

Budget Conversation Continued
Mr. Franke asked if the generator for the Fire Company was procured yet, to which Dan Miller responded that it had not been. Mr. Miller also commented that he was awaiting guidance on how to submit a bill to the Township for the ARPA funds earmarked for that generator's purchase. Hunter Ahrens responded that the best way to do it would submit the final bill to the Township so the Township would pay based on that quote.

Mr. Ahrens made a presentation from PowerPoint on the budget proposal offering a broad overview of the budget. Mr. Ahrens shared that the additional cost-cutting and revision to the Earned Income Tax revenue would leave the Township with an approximate deficit of more than $400,000 down from the $610,000 estimated in the previous month. The balance of which would be covered by the fund balance.

Mr. Ahrens shared that the anticipated use of the Fund Balance would decrease the General Fund Balance significantly and that pattern was not sustainable over the long term. Mr. Ahrens shared that much of that had to do with transitory commitments, such as Police Department cost increases, Recycling cost increases, additional staff, and benefit commitments. Mr. Ahrens made the comment that a structural deficit exists, and he needed guidance on how the Board would like to approach that challenge. He shared that significant cuts to expense lines would ultimately hamper operations beyond where the budget currently stood; cuts to personnel would be the only

The Board engaged in a discussion of various line items within the budget. Ms. Fiedler commented that grants were in consideration for flood control and stream restoration projects, which should lead the Township to include money to cover the Township's potential obligations under those grants. The Board agreed to change the budget by transferring the fund balance from ARPA money to pay for start-up funds for Flood Control projects in the amount of $100,000. The increase in budgeted costs for Flood Control would be to afford Township-required matches to grant applications currently submitted to the State. In addition, the Board agreed to transfer $102,000 to cover Parks and Recreation Board projects for Pickleball and ADA Walking Paths

with the understanding that the Township would seek grants to afford those costs. The Board communicated their desire to apply for additional grants to increase the Township's revenue stream and work on more infrastructure-related projects beyond existing operational costs, especially stream reclamation or reconstruction projects.

Josh Meck commented that ARPA money should be considered for greater use as Revenue Replacement than had been suggested. Mr. Meck and Mr. Franke echoed this sentiment, stating that ARPA funds would expire by December 31st of 2024, and needed to be utilized before then. The Board continued discussion about projects being billed over multiple years, rather than being done all at once to decrease the financial impact or get more time to apply for grant money.

Mr. Ahrens also provided a broad overview of the Fire Tax Fund and the State Liquid Fuels Fund. Keith Shuman provided a broad overview of the requested Road Work for 2023. The impact of utility cuts was discussed, specifically work that Comcast, Kiely Pipeline, and UGI are doing in the next year. The Board agreed to changes that would include an Overlay on East Wesner Road. The Board agreed to transfer ARPA funds to the budget to cover the cost of the Pickleball Court and Walking Path projects.

Mr. Ahrens requested permission to work on a joint road bid with Ontelaunee Township, as well as other municipalities to realize cost savings from economies of scale for 2023. The Board agreed to permit the Manager to investigate the concept. Mr. Ahrens and Mr. Shuman signaled this was a part of an overall commitment to work with neighboring municipalities more for the benefit of the residents.

Eric Bauman of the Parks and Recreation Board commented that they were proposing a lot of work for the next budget, but there had been little work done in the last couple of years to the Township's parks, especially for older community members.

Joshua Meck made a motion to adopt the preliminary budget and advertise. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heidi Fiedler and seconded by Joshua Meck. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Hunter L. Ahrens
Township Manager