Three Oaks Township Board of Trustees

Budget Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2023

The Public Hearing on the proposed 2023/2024 Township budget was opened at 7:00 pm. The Property Tax Millage Rate proposed to be levied (subject to the Headlee Reduction Act) to support the 2023/2024 Budget will be:

.7092 – General Operating

1.3960 – Library

.3750 - Roads & Bridges

1.6665 – Police (Township residents only)

1.4285 – Fire

.9253 – Ambulance

The proposed 2023/2024 Township Budget was presented. There was not any public comment. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:09 pm.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

**Roll Call**; Present, Gordon, Osburn, Mitchell and Mangold. Absent, Zabel

**Public Comment**; None

**Agendas**;

Motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to approve the agenda as adjusted adding the Berrien County/Township Road Agreement to Item #8 in New Business.

Motion carried.

Motion by Mitchell, supported by Osburn, to approve the Consent Agenda with correction of Bills to be Paid estimated total of $47,143.81. Roll Call; Ayes: Gordon, Mangold, Osburn and Mitchell, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion approved 4-0-1.

**Old Business**: Gary Geist, of Triton Construction, informed the Trustees of the progress to date of Phase II of the Spring Creek School Restoration Project. Work has been completed on the heating & air conditioning, electrical, well and septic. Geist reported that he is awaiting the final electrical inspection so that the plumbing, hanging of drywall and painting can be completed. The parking area along with the sidewalks along with all other work should be completed by the end of April.

**New Business**;

1. A motion by Mangold, supported by Osburn, to set a Special meeting date of Friday,

March 31, 2023 @ 7:00 pm for amending the 2022/2023 Fiscal Budget and adopting the 2023/2024 Fiscal Budget. The motion was approved.

1. Mangold informed the Trustees of his meeting with Ryan Brown, Agent of Decker Insurance Agency, that our annual premium due April 5, 2023 will be $15,595 and that the Three Oaks Library now carries their own insurance and is no longer part of our policy.
2. Mangold informed the Trustees of various meetings and phone calls concerning the efforts of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners in bringing Broadband Internet availability to the unserved and underserved in Berrien County. A new grant application deadline is approaching rapidly for the ROBIN Grant Funding with the two known IPS units, COMCAST and MEC, (Midwest Energy & Communications), seeking letters of support for providing this service in our area. The applications along with the requested letters of support for both IPS providers for the ROBIN Grant Funding must be provided to MIHI, Michigan High-Speed Internet Office, who will select which IPS will be awarded the contract. Many questions still remain as to the actual share of funding from each municipality. My impression is that MEC has appeared to be more user friendly and more open to answering questions concerning service thus I have informed MEC that I will sign a letter of support for them to bring service to approximately 436 residences and businesses in our Township. This letter of support is contingent on MEC being awarded the ROBIN Grant funding, pending final contract and final Township Board approval. (See attached)
3. Resolutions:

A. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Resolution Regarding Public Information Coordinator and Policy Charges for Public Information. Roll Call; Ayes: Mitchell, Osburn, Mangold and Gordon, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

B. A motion by Mangold, supported by Mitchell, to adopt the Trustee Salary Resolution at $2,400.00 annually. Roll Call; Ayes: Osburn, Mangold, Gordon and Mitchell, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

C. A motion by Mangold, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Supervisor Salary Resolution at $11,005.18 annually. Roll Call; Ayes: Osburn, Gordon, Mitchell and Mangold, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

D. A motion by Gordon, supported by Mitchell, to adopt the Clerk Salary Resolution at $19,750.00 annually. Roll Call; Ayes: Mangold. Mitchell Gordon and Osburn, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

E. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Treasurer Salary Resolution at $15,800.00 annually. Roll Call; Ayes: Mangold, Gordon, Osburn and Mitchell, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

F. A motion by Mangold, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Fire Chief Salary Resolution at $19,000.00 annually. Roll Call; Ayes: Mitchell, Osburn, Gordon and Mangold, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

G. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the the Election Workers Compensation Resolution as presented. Roll Call; Ayes: Gordon, Osburn, Mangold and Mitchell, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

H. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Hourly Township Employee Resolution, (Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and Cemetery Sexton) at an increase of $0.75 an hour. On-Call Fire Fighters will receive a $1.50 an hour increase to $20.00 an hour paid out of the ARPA Fund. Roll Call; Ayes: Osburn, Mangold, Mitchell and Gordon, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

I. A motion by Mangold, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Planning Commission Compensation Resolution a rate of $35.00 per meeting with the Chairperson and Secretary at a rate of $45.00 per meeting. Roll Call; Ayes: Mitchell, Gordon, Osburn and Mangold, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

J. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Attendance at Educational Meetings Resolution as presented. Roll Call; Ayes: Gordon, Mitchell, Osburn and Mangold, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

K. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Level Test Resolution #23-0313-1 as presented. Roll Call; Ayes: Gordon, Mitchell, Osburn and Mangold, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

L. A Motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Three Oaks Township Resolution to Set an Alternate Date for the July Board of Review 2023 as presented. Roll Call; Ayes: Gordon, Osburn, Mangold and Mitchell, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

M. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to adopt the Three Oaks Township Resolution to Set an Alternate Date for the December Board of Review 2023 as presented. Roll Call; Ayes: Osburn, Mitchell, Mangold and Gordon, Nays: None, Absent: Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

1. Mangold reported of the Joint Township Board of Review with Galien and Three Oaks
Townships. Appeals of Assessments will be heard at the Three Oaks Township Hall on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm and at the Galien Township Office on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Residents, from either Township, can appeal their assessments on either of the two dates.
2. Mangold reported on a Pokagon Fund sponsored Community Shred Day to be held at the New Buffalo Township Public Safety Building on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. This service is offered free to residents of the area and is for personal documents only.
3. Mangold reported that General Code requested Township ordinances adopted since Ordinance No. 61 to be included in our codification.
4. Mangold reported on receiving the Berrien County/Three Oaks Township Road Work Agreement on Monday, March 13, 2023. The contract calls for seal coating the roads of Flynn, Basswood and Schwark, from Elm Valley to Kruger Roads. The cost of this contract is $87,841.00, of which the Township’s share of cost is $62,949.00. This contract exceeds the estimated cost, presented to the Township Board at last month’s meeting by 45.4%. That estimate was presented at $60,407.00 of which the Township’s share would be $35,515.00 which would be within our millage budget. Mangold requested no action until he speaks to the Road Dept. inquiring about this increase and our displeasure.

**Final Public Comment**;

None

The meeting adjourned@ 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Mangold

Township Supervisor