

## **Ronald Township Annual Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2024, 8 PM**

**Ronald Township Hall**

### **Call To Order**

Supervisor Blood called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Motion made to open Budget Public Hearing made by Trustee Fox, supported by Treasurer Lamphere. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Members Present**

Supervisor Mike Blood, Trustee Sandra Thelen, Trustee Stephanie Fox, Treasurer Angela Lamphere, Clerk Kaitlyn Borton

### **Public Comment**

Ryan Wilson requested previous years budget copies to be made available for comparison.

Resident requested clarification on changes in the budget- questioned raises; it was noted that no raises have been given.

Christine Strickling questioned Capital Outlay in the budget.

Courtney Wilson commented on the 2023-2024 Budget; stated it was not the final. Supervisor Blood stated this was the Adopted Budget that was in the township records.

Resident requested the actual expenditures and revenues. Spoke on the budget being balanced.

Courtney Wilson spoke in regards to the budget being balanced.

Chief Walker spoke on the Fire Departments budget. Mentioned to date spending is roughly \$78,000 without considering the \$10,000 coming back from a grant.

Christine Strickling spoke in regards to the township bills.

Supervisor Blood spoke in regards to Treasurer quarterly reports.

Resident questioned if there would be a Treasurers report on the website monthly.

Chief Walker requested the Fire Department Budget be \$83,000.

Supervisor Blood spoke in regards to potentially paying off the Fire Departments Airpac lease.

Chief Walker noted if that were to be done; \$11,000 could be removed from the Fire Dept Budget request for the 2024-2025 year.

Chief Walker spoke in regards to ARPA funds and truck replacement.

Christine Strickling spoke in regards to the ARPA funds.

Resident questioned year end numbers for expenditures and revenues. It was noted that we are working on retrieving those numbers. Resident Mentioned dates would be beneficial in reports. Requested a balance sheet for 2023.

Supervisor Blood spoke in regards to allocating some of the ARPA funds to the Fire Departments lease- noting it would offset their budget. Noted 3 years are remaining on the lease.

Christine Strickling questioned the interest rate on the Fire Dept lease and the interest rate on the ARPA funds.

Robby Walker spoke in regards to the cemetery budget. Noted \$11,988 was spent last year on mowing exclusively. Mentioned comparisons amongst neighboring townships budgets for cemeteries.

Christine Strickling spoke in regards to the cemetery association and noted they conduct a meeting on Flag Day.

Ardie Ferris spoke in regards to the cemeteries and associations.

Supervisor Blood noted the township has deeds to the cemeteries and lease agreements.

Supervisor Blood noted that the township receives a report on the cemeteries twice annually.

Robby Walker spoke in regards to the cemetery operations.

Kathy Ainsworth spoke in regards to the biddings of the cemetery maintenance.

Supervisor Blood noted the two areas of question in the budget are the cemetery and Fire Department budgets.

Christine Strickling spoke in regards to the election budget. Questioned if it was sufficient for this years election.

Matt Edwards spoke in regards to the elections.

Supervisor Blood noted that the board would look at the interest rates between the ARPA funds and the leasing to take into consideration if ARPA funds would be utilized to pay off the lease for the Fire Dept Airpacs.

Chief Walker spoke in regards to the lease.

Kathy Ainsworth questioned where the Airpac Lease was.

Supervisor Blood noted it should be in the files.

Robby Walker noted that \$12,000 would be sufficient for the cemetery budget.

Supervisor Blood and Clerk Borton noted the cemetery would be increased to \$12,000, funds to be reallocated from the Roads budget.

Chief Walker noted that amongst the amount for the Fire Department Budget there station maintenance was included in which the previous year the township covered that maintenance.

Christine Strickling requested the Final Budget to be posted to the website.

Supervisor Blood spoke in regards to the Cemetery budget going to \$12,000.

Chief Walker spoke in regards to the fire department budget and gear replacements.

Supervisor Blood proposed to Chief Walker a budget of \$80,000 and looking into the Airpac lease.

Supervisor Blood noted the Property Tax budget is less than the previous years.

Resident spoke in regards to Capital Outlay.

Ryan Wilson questioned the difference in property tax.

Clerk Borton noted Administration Fees of \$15,500 were calculated twice in the previous budget.

Resident questioned procedures with accounts. Supervisor Blood noted it is a 2 signature warrant.

Matt Edwards spoke in regards to the previously discussed property that the township was viewing.

Supervisor Blood noted it is still being considered and looked into.

Resident spoke in regards to the Shoppers Guide posting referencing the millage rate.

Supervisor Blood noted no changes are occurring with the millage.

Resident spoke in regards to property tax values.

Clerk Borton proposed covering the Fire Department station maintenance out of the Townhall Building & Grounds budget.

Resident questioned a resolution the Board made and questioned the date of the Annual Meeting.

Supervisor Blood noted no proposal or resolution was made. Meeting is Saturday at 1. Last Saturday of March.

Trustee Fox questioned if there were any topics for discussion.

Brad Brooks spoke in regards to a financial statement. Raised questions in regards to lack of detail in previous reports. Noted discrepancies and questioned if the board would commit to an internal audit or a forensic audit.

Christine Strickling questioned if this year was due for an audit, also mentioned the F-65.

Trustee Fox noted the F-65 for 2023 was due 6 months after the year end.

Supervisor Blood motioned for approval for the 2024-2025 budget.

Christine Strickling commented on the budget changes and motion.

Supervisor Blood read aloud the proposed budget line by line and noted any changes.

Christine Strickling questioned the \$3,000 from the fire department budget for station maintenance, it was noted that the township would just cover that portion of the budget under building and grounds.

Supervisor Blood noted that \$10,000 would be taken out of the roads budget and added to the Fire Department to make the Fire Protection budget \$80,000.

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget made by Supervisor Blood, supported by Trustee Thelen. Motion carried by voice vote.

Matt Edwards questioned the Township Board budget and all that it includes.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Supervisor Blood to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM, supported by Trustee Thelen. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Blood', written over a horizontal line.

Submitted: Kaitlyn Borton, Clerk