

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MUNSON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held Tuesday, May 31, 20 23

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Chair Irene McMullen, with Trustees Andy Bushman and James McCaskey and Fiscal Officer Todd Ray present. Ms. McMullen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was identified as a workshop to allow Munson Fire Department administration and the Trustees to discuss a proposed additional fire levy for the November ballot. Trustee Jim McCaskey noted for those in attendance that public comment would not be taken during this dialogue, but a paper form was available for citizens to fill out and submit to the Trustees, or send by email or postal mail.

Chair Irene McMullen invited the Fire Department administrators to open the discussion.

Fire Department Treasurer Rich Ferlin handed each of the Trustees a spreadsheet he had prepared that showed Fire Department financial status when receiving a \$360,000 cash infusion from the financed sale of the new fire truck to the Township, along with a new levy ranging from 1.1 mill to 1.35 mills, with a collection year starting in either 2024 or 2025. He discussed cash flow concerns and his belief that the 1.1 mill levy presented in a spreadsheet created by Trustee Bushman would not permit sufficient carry-over at the end of the year.

He noted that the Fire Department budget projections assumes 12 full time positions staffed 24-7, supplemented with part-time staff as necessary to fill shifts.

The Trustees discussed options to cover a carry-over shortfall if it occurs. They debated when a new levy should start collections and appeared to find consensus for having a new levy begin collection in 2025, although a decision on this would be made at the next regular meeting.

Trustee Andy Bushman shared and explained the spreadsheet he had prepared that depicted revenue from existing levies and a 1.1 mill new levy proposed by Chief Vatty in a letter to the Trustees dated April 28, 2023, along with revenue projections from EMS billing provided by Munson Fire for 2025 through 2029. Mr. Bushman's document included a Fire and EMS vehicle replacement/payment schedule. It showed Fire Department total operating budget projections for the same time period, allowing for 3% annual growth in expenditures. Some discussion followed as to the validity and confidence in a 3% growth projection. Ms. McMullen asked if the revenue from the levy proposal would be sufficient to avoid the necessity of another levy increase in 2028. Was the 3% increase reasonable?

Mr. Ferlin was non-committal and advocated for a change in the contract to permit a "consumer price index" adjustment when necessary.

Andy Bushman argued against the idea, asserting that keeping the contract as-is protects the residents from excessive increases.

Jim McCaskey stated that the Trustees should address the levy now, and not take on making changes to the contract at the same time.

Munson Fire Chief Mike Vatty addressed the Board. He cited statistics on call volume increases over the past few years, pointing out that steady new home construction in the township, and new senior housing facilities have all contributed to a higher emergency call burden on the Department. He expressed concerns that a new chemical dependency treatment program that will open in the township soon will also increase the number of emergency calls to the Fire Department significantly.

Chief Vatty stated that the Department is using new mobile data terminals in the vehicles, employs high quality equipment, analyzes call volume by geographic service quadrant and time of day, all to provide maximum performance and service in emergency responses. Despite the population growth in the county and Munson, the Department manpower level has stayed the same. He believes that the new staffing model in place, with two full time positions recently added to the Department staffing, are helping to sustain the high quality, low response times that is the top priority of service delivery by the Fire Department. Chief Vatty pointed out that full-time staff yields some costs savings due to reduced overtime pay needed to fill shifts.

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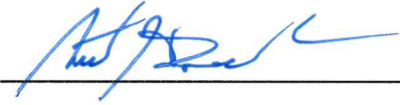
Meeting

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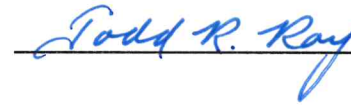
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Chair Irene McMullen indicated that the Trustees will consider residents' comments that are submitted, along with the information presented, and will address the levy again at the next regular meeting.

Jim McCaskey moved to adjourn the Special meeting at 11:06am. Andy Bushman seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer