

**Charter Township of Ironwood
Special Meeting / Budget workshop
(Unapproved Minutes)
Proposed 2021 General Fund Budget
~~Monday~~ Tuesday, December 29, 2020
Time: 4:30 pm/ 5:00 pm
Teleconference meeting
Call: (701) 802-5250
Access Code: 714999#**

Call to Order: 4:30 pm Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Supervisor Jay Kangas, Treasurer Maria Graser and Clerk Mary Segalin

Trustees: Brenda Aili-Angus, Gabe Justinak, Kevin Lyons, Jim Simmons

Absent: None

Also Present: Brett Imwalle, Sandy Lahtinen, Sharon Hallberg, Rich Jenkins

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Aili-Angus to open the Public Hearing at 4:30 pm. Motion carried.

Much discussion was had by board members concerning the General Fund budget for 2021. Simmons suggested a COLA increase for the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer. Justinak would like to see the elected officials get a \$1 hr. raise for 2021. ~~A citizen~~ Sandy Lahtinen had commented on several issues including; ~~the meetings don't appear to be posted properly and not enough notice was given to the public before a meeting, the Supervisor wage too high, Fund balance is too high should give tax payers a break on taxes, requesting info on how to virtually attend training for Planning Commission and Board of Review members, consider cutting back on Deputies time as the office isn't open due to COVID.~~

Corrections to minutes.

MINUTES – Monday, December 29, 2020 ACTUAL – Tuesday, December 29, 2020

MINUTES -Citizen who commented on several issues including. ACTUAL – Sandy Lahtinen

MINUTES– the meetings don't appear to be posted properly and not enough notice was given to the public before a meeting. ACTUAL – The 2021 public hearing for the General Fund Budget was not posted properly – Posted on Thursday, December 24th, Township offices closed the 25th, 26th, 27th, the meeting was the 29th, was the budget available at the township office that people could pick up (some citizens don't have computers), and a meeting had to be cancelled in November due to improper timeline for posting. With the holidays and back-to-back meetings there should have been more time given for citizens to review the budget.

MINUTES – Supervisor wage too high. ACTUAL – Sandy questioned why there were wages (46,990.00) in the supervisors' 2020 budget when the former appointed supervisor claimed he would not collect a salary while he was acting as supervisor.

MINUTES – requesting information on how to virtually attend training for Planning Comm. And Board of Review. ACTUAL – Sandy asked why there was over \$10,000 in the budget for elected official training vs. nothing for the Board of Review and only \$250.00? For the

Planning Commission (7 members). Asked if the \$1900 virtual training package could be used for the Planning Comm. And Board of Review members and why \$10,000 additional training dollars was in the budget when the elected officials were signed up to use the virtual training.

MINUTES – Consider cutting back Deputies Time as the office isn't open due to COVID.

ACTUAL – Why did the deputies' budget get increased, eg. \$5000 to \$10,200 for the deputy treasurer when the office isn't even open due to COVID and the part time help went from \$250 To \$7500.00.

At this point Jim Simmons (board member) interrupted Sandy saying she was “grandstanding” and her time was up. Sandy replied that it was very unprofessional for Jim to interrupt her and that his comments were why citizens don't come to/speak at meetings. Sandy said he should be reported to MTA.

End of Meeting – citizen thanked board members for doing homework on budget, ACTUAL – Citizen (Sandy Lahtinen) thanked four (4) members of the board, Aili, Kangas, Lyons, Segalin, for not approving salary increases at this meeting as it would be illegal. Segalin commented that she was not against it but it was not the right time to do it.

Another citizen had requested the board consider eliminating the Zoning Administrator position, or having it be done on an on-call basis. The Township Fund Balance is too high and maybe the Township should consider eliminating the Township tax levy for one year.

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Justinak to close the Public Hearing at 4:50 pm. Motion carried.

Call to Order: 5:00 pm Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Supervisor- Jay Kangas, Treasurer- Maria Graser, Clerk- Mary Segalin

Trustees: Kevin Lyons, James Simmons, Gabe Justinak, Brenda Aili-Angus

Also present: LeRoy Johnson- Zoning Administrator, Sandy Lahtinen, Brett Imwalle, Sharon Hallberg.

Amendments to Agenda: Hannula Insurance Renewal with Par Plan for 2021: New Business. A motion was made by Aili-Angus supported by Simmons to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment: A citizen commented on hoping the Township Board could have a better relationship with the community, they felt the board was unapproachable and adversarial with the community. A citizen expressed their feeling in regards to comments made by the members of the Board to them and she was treated in a bad manner. Another citizen commented on salary increases for elected officials presented at this time is just wrong, as they did not ask for a salary increase in this year's budget. It is too last minute this close to the end of the year.

New Business: Discussions were held regarding the General Fund 2021 Proposed Budget. Simmons stated Fund Balance is not cash the Township has in the bank. Aili-Angus stated she felt that the Zoning Administrator should be paid just like the Building Inspector is on a on call basis not a monthly stipend. She requested a report be given to the Board of what the Zoning Administrator does for the Twp., she also stated the Elected Officials did not ask for a raise prior to this meeting. Lyons stated he felt that the requested raise brought up by Justinak and

Simmons was too last minute and was not discussed in the previous public hearings. He feels we need to be more transparent to the public, also Lyons stated the Board had received a fiscal year 2019 report from the Zoning Admin. in the past.

Leroy Johnson, Zoning Administrator stated he does much more than Zoning issues. He also takes care of Land Division applications, is the Noxious Weed officer, the Blight Officer and works on various Ordinance issues. He keeps monthly reports on his activity and takes numerous phone calls at home as well as at the office.

A motion was made by Justinak supported by Simmons to add \$1 per hour to the elected officials' salary, after much discussion by the board, this motion failed on a 4/3 roll call vote. Kangas, Lyons, Segalin and Aili-Angus voting no. Graser, Simmons, Justinak voting yes. Segalin will contact MTA on the proper procedure of a possible salary resolution change for 2021.

A motion was made by Simmons supported by Justinak to adopt Resolution 2020-15 the 2021 General Appropriations Resolution, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote with Aili-Angus voting No.

A motion was made by Segalin supported by Lyons to adopt Resolution 2020-17- Opt out of Public Act 152-2011. The Resolution was read by Supervisor Kangas in its entirety and attached as part of these minutes. Motion carried on an unanimous roll call vote.

Charter Township of Ironwood RESOLUTION 2020-17

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL EXEMPTION OPTION AS SET FORTH IN 2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the "Act") was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

1. Section 3 – "Hard Caps" Option – limits a public employer's total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
2. Section 4 – "80%/20%" Option – limits a public employer's share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
3. Section 8 – "Exemption" Option – A local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Ironwood has decided to adopt the annual Exemption option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Ironwood elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the annual Exemption option for the medical benefit plan coverage year, starting January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

A motion made by Segalin second by Lyons the following Resolution was adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

COUNTY OF Gogebic)

I, Mary Segalin, Clerk of the Charter Township of Ironwood, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution 2021-17 OPT Out of Public Act 152 of 2011, Resolution was adopted by the Charter Township of Ironwood Board at a Special Meeting held on December 29, 2020.

Mary Segalin, Clerk

After much discussion of the insurance premium cost, payment plan, other insurance carrier offers. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Aili-Angus to authorize Kangas to sign the 2021 insurance premium renewal. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Public Comment: A citizen had thanked Segalin, Kangas, Aili-Angus and Lyons for doing their homework on the budget.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Aili-Angus supported by Lyons to adjourn the meeting at 5:58pm. Motion carried.

Jay Kangas, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

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