

Dundee Township Board of Trustees – Special Budget Meeting
February 20, 2021

Supervisor Glee called the Special Budget Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 11:06 AM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL. Supervisor Glee read the notice regarding the modifications to the IL Open Meetings Act as contained in SB 2135 which modified the procedures necessary to conduct a meeting via remote access. As required in the Act, the meeting will be video recorded, and the recording will be made available to the public via the Township's website.

Roll call: Office Manager Block was in attendance at the Township office. Supervisor Glee and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Schaffer, and Ahrens were participating in the meeting via remote access.

Trustee Johnson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Trustee Harney made a motion to approve the Agenda for the February 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Special Budget meeting as presented with a second by Trustee Johnson. Supervisor Glee called the motion to approve the Agenda as presented and with a roll call vote Supervisor Glee, and Trustees Harney, Johnson, Ahrens, and Schaffer voted "aye"; the motion to approve the Agenda was approved.

Public Comments: Supervisor Glee opened the Public Comment period.

Mr. Chris Kempf of Algonquin Shores commented that he was wondering about the delay in the posting of the videos from prior meetings he thought they would be available by Friday. Supervisor Glee responded that she had been on bereavement leave and would have the videos posted by later today.

No other comments were made, and Supervisor Glee closed the public comment period.

New Business: No items of new business were on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Review, Discussion and Approval of the Budget for FY 2021-22:

The Board of Trustees resumed the review of the Road and District budgets.

The Board reviewed the estimated revenues for the Road District and how the Levy is calculated. They discussed the line item for building maintenance which included the residing portions of the cold storage and main garage area. It was decided to leave this item in the budget.

The Board reviewed the remaining balances in the Road District accounts and discussed the estimated budget overages and what funds were available to cover these expenditures.

Trustee Harney stated that the issue is that the Highway Department in the last fiscal year spent \$50,000 more than what they took in in revenues. No matter which fund these extra dollars came from they are still spending reserve funds. The focus should be on budgetary needs.

Trustee Schaffer stated that the Highway Commissioner could have put in a transfer for additional funds to make his budget look pretty and this would be a non-issue. He further stated that he does not want to have to reopen the budget in six months to allow the Highway Department to purchase salt or other needed commodities. He believes that we need the Highway Commissioner to manage the budget appropriately.

Trustee Harney questioned Trustee Schaffer saying that he has been relentless over the past years to vote down the entire budget and to not approve many of the monthly expense items due to the stated

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fact that he was distressed over deficit spending. If so, why apply the use of reserves in this budget for the Highway Department?

Trustee Schaffer stated that that is not his intention but if we are going to apply this standard to the Road District budget it should be applied to all the Departments. Once the budget is established, we should only be using tax revenues to balance the budget and not using reserves - we need to be equitable - we need to spend less and balance the budget.

Trustee Harney again questioned Trustee Schaffer as to how he can justify the severe depletion of the Highway Department reserves. She believes the Board of Trustees has a legal obligation to look after the taxpayers and to approve a reasonable budget. She also stated she believes the Board cannot leave the Future Highway Commissioner with such a low level of reserves and that by approving the budget as it is submitted, the Board would be approving excess expenditures by \$250,000.

Trustee Schaffer commented that he sees that the Board has done similar things in the prior years for the Township budget where he believes expenditures are up over 50%, he again stated he believes what is done for the Highway Department should apply for the budgets of all the Departments - that there should be the use of the same standards. He also commented that he too may not vote to approve the budget if it is not balanced.

Trustee Johnson commented that he objects to the equating of the Road District budget to that of the Town Fund as he believes they are two different entities. He stated that he went through the proposed Road District budget and making as many cuts as he could still found that the budget would be over revenues by at least \$100,000 which is a huge problem and believes the Board needs to take serious action.

The Board stated to the Highway Commissioner that the transferring from reserves in the amount of \$250,000 is not a viable option and asked where he could take this money from his budget. Highway Commissioner Sinnett responded that is hard to determine as the budget is kind of a moving target. Supervisor Glees commented the reduction of that amount would certainly lead to a reduction in services provided to residents by the Highway Department.

Trustee Harney commented that she wants to be able to move forward with the draft budget at today's meeting and set up the draft budget for the final budget meeting.

Trustee Schaffer commented that last year the Board approved a budget for the Highway Department which is \$250,000 over the projected revenues and the Highway Commissioner did not spend all of it. He questioned whether we should use a similar model for this year and not use a differing model.

Supervisor Glees reviewed the current bank balances for the Highway Department. Supervisor Glees then said she would poll the Board to get their feelings whether they should go line by line through the proposed Highway Department budget and make suggested cuts or let the current budget go through to draft and then have the Highway Commissioner suggest changes or modifications during the final budget hearing. Trustee Ahrens stated he would go with the option that Highway Commissioner Sinnett would be happy with. Trustee Harney stated that she would recommend going with the cuts that have been proposed and pass the draft budget so that it would allow the approval of the final budget in April. She stated this would still Give Highway Commissioner Sinnett the ability to resolve the issues and that the Board cannot kick this budget issue further on down the road. She stated she would not approve the

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budget as it is currently written for the Highway Department. Trustee Johnson commented that he would recommend a combination of items, first of all, he would have several line-item reductions that he would suggest number; secondly he felt there are some general combinations that could be suggested such as the possible need to consider a layoff in the Highway Department; and third he stated he believes that Highway Commissioner Sinnett does not fully understand the budget and would recommend that he needs to get further assistance from someone off-line. Trustee Schaffer commented that he does not like either option. He believes the Board should have begun the budget process earlier in the year such as in November and not have waited until January to begin the process. He also believes that Highway Commissioner Sinnett needs additional guidance but that this should be done off-line and not try to dictate budget line items in a public forum. He also believes that he cannot move forward with the approval of the budget as it presented.

Trustee Ahrens asked what budget would Trustee Harney approve? Trustee Harney commented that she had submitted a list of items which could be cut and is looking to remove at least \$150,000 from the budget. These are suggestions to Highway Commissioner Sinnett, and they could be reviewed by line item.

Highway Commissioner Sinnett commented that the Township's infrastructure is getting old, and this continues to drive cost up. Trustee Harney said that no one here has illusions the costs are not going up however we are limited by income and cannot leave the incoming Highway Commissioner with very limited reserves. Trustee Johnson added that no one is blaming the Current Highway Commissioner. This process will involve very hard choices as we need to save at least \$160,000.

The Board continued to discuss how to proceed with the Highway budget and whether or not to move to the approval of the draft budget. Supervisor Glees reviewed the suggested cuts for the Highway Department budget including a reduction of \$100,000 in the salary cost and \$100,000 in infrastructure. Additional cuts would have to be made by the Highway Commissioner in order to make a total reduction of \$240,000.

The Board reviewed potential cuts by line-item number and ended up at a reduced draft budget for the Road and Bridge general account of \$837,159.

The discussion moved on to a review of the proposed budget for the 708 Mental Health Board. Supervisor Glees asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the proposed budget that was presented on Monday. Trustees Ahrens and Johnson stated they had no questions at this time. Trustee Harney had a question on personnel costs shown in the budget. 708 Board President Paul Setze replied that the Board is looking to hire a social worker who would be capable of linking people to the proper services.

Trustee Schaffer commented that he would like to see the 708 Mental Health Board budget as a separate supplemental document to the town budget. He stated other townships who have 708 Boards remove this budget from the Town budget and show it as an appendix. He also commented that he believes it will be difficult that the full \$2.6 million for other professional services would be spent during the first year and questioned if the 708 Mental Health Board plans to rebate any excess taxes. He also questioned how the 708 Mental Health Board plans to handle the reserve fund account.

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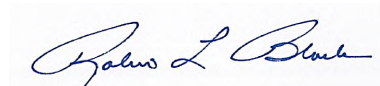
Trustee Johnson asked about the potential for extra demand on the Township’s administrative services to do such things as processing payroll and enter/pay bills. Mr. Setze commented that the 708 Mental Health Board is researching how to handle billing and other administrative services and will work to ensure they do not overburden the Township staff.

No additional questions were raised on the 708 proposed budget.

Supervisor Glees returned to the Town budget specifically the Assessor’s budget and reviewed the new personnel expense line item that would include a dollar per hour increase in the staff wages. Assessor Bielak also requested modification of the line item for is Department contingency fund from \$5000 to \$10,000. The Board generally agreed to these requested changes.

Supervisor Glees then asked for a motion to approve the draft budget and submit it for review at the final budget hearing. Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the proposed budget as amended and to go to draft at the formal budget hearing on April 21, 2021. Supervisor Glees seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, the majority of the Board requested that a revised budget be created and distributed for review prior to taking the final vote. Supervisor Glees then tabled the motion to approve the budget and committed to distribute a revised budget by February 23rd and requested that all comments be returned no later than February 28th. Another special budget meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd at 7 PM to complete the review of the fiscal year 2021-22 budget.

Supervisor Glees asked if there were any additional items that needed to be brought before the Board and hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Johnson made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Harney. Upon roll call vote, Trustees Ahrens, Johnson, Schaffer, and Harney and Supervisor Glees all voted “aye” – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 PM.



Robert Block
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk