

Rock Island Township Special Meeting
Minutes of Board Discussion - 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

2827 - 7th Avenue, Rock Island, IL. 61201
Monday, February 5, 2018 – 2:00 P.M.

I. In attendance: Roll Call: Supervisor Alan Carmen, Clerk Joan Clark, Trustees: James Kerr, Heather Gray, Vincent Thomas and Rita Kirk. Others in attendance: Assessor Brenda Carmen. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Alan Carmen at 2:00 p.m. The following township business was transacted:

II. Supervisor's Report:

2018 – 2019 Budget Review (Attachment A)

In preparation of the meeting Supervisor Carmen prepared and distributed an updated view of our financials.

Cash Flow Projections: After viewing the projection, the board agreed the differences in year end balances is caused by the need to have funds on hand to meet the first three months of the year when the township awaits property tax distribution from the county. The cash projections are combined totals from: Town Fund, GA Fund and the Building Fund.

Town Fund Income/Expenditures

Income – Discussion: The board was concerned about the amount of funding we would receive from State of Illinois Replacement Tax: which has been a major concern for the past four years. In reality, we have no way of knowing if we will receive the same amount as last year or nothing at all. Interest income seemed low and suggestions were made for the Supervisor to look at the rates being paid in CDs, or Money Market accounts.

Expenses

Programs:

Increases in the Township's Emergency Assistance Program are warranted. The funding ran out before the end of the fiscal year. It would have run out sooner if it were not for Rock Island County Emergency Food and Shelter Program. The Senior Cares Program had funding remaining and the board encouraged advertising the senior voucher program; more income eligible residents would take advantage of it. Funding for Veterans' Programs should also be advertised more. The Employment Program, Food Pantry, and Senior Holiday Dinner are serving many of our township residents. Suggestions to call for bids on the Holiday Dinner and to possibly ask the Evening Meal to help with cost of trash collection were also discussed.

Contractual Services – Discussion

Printing, Mailing and Layout of the Township Newsletter are being reviewed by the Supervisor. The Argus/Dispatch can do our layout, but the Newsletter can no longer be mailed to Rock Island residents only – the newspaper is now owned by Quad City Times. The cost of paying more for mailing to people who do not live in the township is probably not going to be acceptable. Discussion by the board indicated looking at local mailers, printers and layout expenses.

Personnel

Payroll Expenses: The board asked the Supervisor and Assessor if raises would be given this year. Neither was prepared to discuss the question at this time. Both had allocated small increases but the decision of how the funds are allocated is based on job performance and the board assumes their individual recommendations.

Health Insurance: Cost of Health Insurance has gone up dramatically. Currently the cost for the Assessor's staff and the Supervisor's staff is \$50,000.00 per year (this amount does not include the employee portion). We currently have four employees who qualify for health insurance bringing the cost per employee per year to a cost of \$12,500 per employee. Indications are CMS will increase our portion an additional \$4000.00 during this fiscal year (\$1,000.00 per employee). The Supervisor is looking for other carriers but has yet to find one that has comparable

coverage for less cost – he will continue to seek other companies. A suggestion was made to share the cost of the increase among the staff who currently qualify for coverage.

Social Security/Medicare/IMRF – the township has no control over. All the expense is based on employee salaries.

Assessor Budget: All agreed the Assessor has done a very good job at keeping costs down. The Assessor stated she is in need of new computers – the funding will come from the remaining amount in last year’s budget added to this year’s line item increase.

General Assistance – by state statute must be funded at a level determined by the Supervisor based on the need in our community. The board felt the General Assistance Program is funded at an acceptable level, but much is left up in the air based on what the federal and state government will do with the Medicaid Program. Not long ago the township was responsible for basic medical care which was provided by Community Health Care. The past five years Medicaid has taken on that responsibility. We have been told that may end. If it does, by state statute the township must fund the medical cost in whatever way the state determines. If we do not have the funds available in the General Assistance Fund the money will have to be allocated from the Town Fund.

Building Fund-Discussion

Due to the age of the Township Building a variety of improvement projects were discussed:

Suggested Projects include:

- a) Lund Hall?
- b) Windows
- c) Outside Fencing
- d) Planter in the front of the building
- e) Repair of the sidewalk outside the front office
- f) Repair of leaking awning in the front of the building
- g) New flag pole
- f) Parking lot striping.

The board was encouraged to call the office with other ideas as they might think of them.

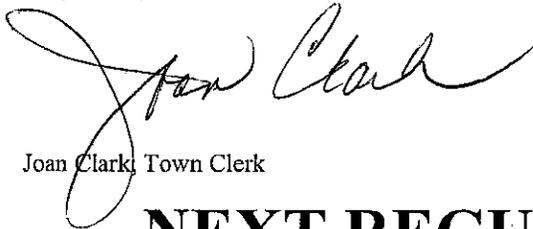
III. Public Comments/Reports-Trustees, Assessor, Supervisor, Public.

The Supervisor will notify the board of a few upcoming City planning meetings.

IV. Adjournment

Trustee Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Trustee Kerr. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Joan Clark, Town Clerk

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018 AT
4:15 P.M.