

August 31, 2020

Chairman Mueller called the meeting to order at 2:54 pm. Trustees Gabram and Port were present. Fiscal Officer Karen Walder and Trustee Assistant Melissa Palmer was also present.

The Budget Commission advised the Trustees that the problem was not in the Townships budget, but with the growing cash balance and representations by the Board. From 2017-2020 the Trustees have been approving capital projects in their budget, getting the money to do the projects, but are not doing the projects. The township has not spent the amount of money budgeted for capital improvements since 2017, showing the budget commission that the township doesn't have a need for inside millage since Russell is not spending what it has or says they will. The budget commission cited over \$750,000 in unspent capital over that time period, with an anticipated \$231,000 excess cash balance, based on the submitted 2021 budget.

Mr. Gabram recognized the concerns of the budget commission on the failure to execute capital projects, and told the budget commission that the Trustees didn't do their jobs. The Township has money appropriated but are failing to spend it, and make capital improvements, which is failing the residents of the Township. He asked that the Board receive one last chance to do what they say they are going to do, and make improvements that will benefit the residents.

The Budget Commission acknowledged the outstanding work by the Police, Fire and Road departments and clarified it is the Board's responsibilities regarding the General Fund that are at issue. The budget commission advised the Trustees that if the Trustees pass a budget in June 2021 and have not spent what they previously approved, then Russell Township stands to lose inside millage.

The Budget Commission then voted and approved the Russell Township 2021 Tax Budget.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Port seconded and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

James Mueller, Chairman

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Dorka