

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

June 8, 2021

The Chair, Ms. Port, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Trustee Gabram and Mueller were present. Fiscal Officer Karen Walder, and Trustee Assistant Melissa Palmer were also present. The following Department Heads were present: Fire Chief John Frazier, Road Superintendent Gene Layne.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Mrs. Walder went over the five-year budget for the Fire Department. She advised that collection for the Fire Station bond ends this year and the bond will be paid off in 2022.

Chief Frazier advised the Trustees of the capital improvements that have been completed, which include: HVAC controls, the parking lot, door locks, and the fire system. The next large capital purchase for the Fire Department will be in 2025 and it will be for an ambulance.

Chief Frazier informed the trustees that he is waiting to hear about being awarded a FEMA grant. If the department gets the grant they can replace 22 SCBA packs.

Chief Frazier advised the trustees of all the updates that have been completed since the levy in 2017. Chief Frazier said the only thing left that the department was going to do is putting on a full-time staff. He would still like to do this and have 3-4 full-time paramedics. The Trustees discussed the possibility of putting a levy on the November ballot for 1.18 mills to be able to have full-time staffing at the fire department. Mr. Mueller suggested replacing the 1989 continuous levy with a new continuous levy, however Chief Frazier noted that taxpayers receive rollback on the 1989 Levy.

The board discussed the rollback and various options including an .8Mill, or 1.2Mill new versus replacement levy. The board will decide after the remainder of the budget workshops. Mrs. Palmer reminded the board that time is short if this is to be considered for the November election.

Mrs. Walder advised the board that the 2022 Budget cannot reflect spending that is contingent on a pending election.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:** Mrs. Walder went over the Road Departments five-year budget.

The board discussed the paving budget. The proposed 2022 budget shows \$300,000.00, with an additional transfer \$250,000.00 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund to help catch up on paving that was postpone due to the resurfacing of County Line Road.

Road Superintendent Gene Layne advised the trustees that he looked into a new plow truck and it will be \$160,000.00. Mr. Layne also advised the trustee that his facility needs to be looked at long term, asking the board to either put some money into the building for repairs and upgrades or consider building a new facility, which may need a levy.

The trustees discussed the settlement for County Line Road that will be paid from the road funds. The trustees would like to pay for that out of the General Fund by reimbursing the road fund after the payment is made. Mrs. Walder indicated that the General Fund would not have the resources based on the proposed 2022 budget. Mr. Mueller suggested postponing General Fund projects to ensure that there is enough money in the general fund for this expense.

Road Superintendent Gene Layne indicated that additional culvert repairs are

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

SPECIAL

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planned for 2021.

*Mr. Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Gabram seconded and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Kristina Port, Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Dorka