

**DAVISON TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL BUDGET BOARD
MEETING
JUNE 22, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Jim Slezak, Treasurer Tim Green, Trustee Matt Karr, Trustee Lori Tallman
Chief of Police Jay Rendon
Building Official Matt Place
Recording Secretary Jami Vert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Parks & Rec. Director Casey Reed

OTHERS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

The special budget meeting of the Davison Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 11:30 am at the Davison Township Municipal Center, 1280 N. Irish Road, Davison, MI 48423. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

MOTION BY SLEZAK, SECOND BY GREEN to amend the agenda and add to amend the meeting schedule for item a; to add new hire for Clerk’s Department for item b; move budget to item c; to add contract labor term from Richfield Township as item d; and approve Chris Walker in the Treasurer’s Department for a \$1/hour raise as item e; adopt the June 22, 2022 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment period opened at 11:35 A.M./The public comment period was closed at 11:35 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE THE AMENDED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022-2023

Slezak – we had to change the August DDA meeting from the 2nd to the 9th due to elections; and change the November ZBA meeting from the 8th to the 15th due to elections.

Green – November 15th is going to the 8th; am I looking at something wrong?

Slezak – no this is the corrected schedule in front of you.

Green – oh, okay; that makes sense.

Tallman – there is an astrek under our Township for October 17, has that one changed as well?

Vert – that one was changed previously.

Tallman – okay, got that.

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MOTION BY GREEN, SECOND BY KARR to approve the amended meeting schedule for 2022-2023. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE NEW HIRE FOR CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Slezak – Pat and I interviewed her last Wednesday; done mortgages previous; has been laid off; good with numbers; good with BS&A; Plante Moran will come out and help her they said.

Miller – Plante Moran will come out and help her with senior and fire authority.

Slezak – she will be coming in at \$19.00/hour; things may change when the contract passes.

Tallman – well it won't change until we get a contract, right?

Slezak – yes.

Tallman – background check and drug testing to be done.

Miller – I would like to bring her on now with subject to background check and drug testing done, if they come back positive then she is fired immediately.

Slezak – she agreed to this in the interview.

Green – when would you start her?

Slezak – Monday or even tomorrow.

Miller – tomorrow to get her going; we are hurting over there.

Slezak – don't mean to put you on the spot, but can you do the background check?

Rendon – you would use ICHAT.

Miller – Casey has done them before; I can have her do it again; drug testing will take up to 4-5 days.

MOTION BY KARR, SECOND BY TALLMAN to approve the new hire of Jessica Harmon for \$19.00/hour subject to probation, background check and drug testing. Roll Call; Green – yes; Karr – yes; Miller – yes; Tallman – yes; Slezak - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

GO OVER AND DISCUSS BUDGET 2022-2023

Slezak – not passing anything tonight; June 29 we will do that; put assumptions on wages; some could change, not change a lot; minor changes.

Karr – just for purpose on this for wages are we estimating a 2.0%, what figures are we looking at?

Slezak – I don't want to answer that right now just because negotiations are going on right now.

Green – you have to answer that.

Slezak – no I don't right now.

Karr – we don't want them to be able to use that against us.

Green – oh, good point.

Tallman – what did we offer? We offered that right?

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Slezak – offered what?

Tallman – what you put in here.

Slezak – 2.5% is on the table right now.

Tallman – is that what is in here?

Slezak – yes; not a lot of other changes; some of the numbers did change; some line items we don't use; post-employment benefits are zero, we don't use them I was informed this year; close on the numbers, \$10k from the revenues taken in to the expending out on the first part of the budget; two lines that are blue on page 13 we don't use those line items, I didn't take them out as it would have affected the budget from previous years, Alma said they don't need to be in there anymore; no other major changes; we are within budget.

Karr – I know we had talked about wage increase for the boards.

Slezak – I put them in as what they are now; I did not increase.

Karr – why are some higher than last year?

Slezak – DDA has been meeting every month, which last year they did not.

Karr – so we approved the budget last year not knowing that meetings will happen every month?

Slezak – yes.

Tallman – I know we talked about increasing.

Slezak – I have not approved it and we can put in as an assumption; we vote on this June 29.

Miller – we talked about discussing this at the budget meeting.

Tallman – I thought that too.

Karr – what do they make now?

Green - \$40.

Place – chair-person makes \$5 more than the other members; if you do that you will have to state that the chair person will still get \$5 more than the other members.

Tallman – I thought that we did talk about \$70.

Green - \$75 did come up.

Slezak – it did, that number did come up; it is \$40/\$45.

Karr – so we would go \$80/\$85.

Slezak – do we get another increase on this board?

Tallman – does that include senior/fire board?

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Slezak – no, that one does not come out; I'll put those calculations in there.

Place – can we address another line item in the budget?

Slezak – what page is that on? What do you got?

Place – page 10; right now, we have cell phone allowance at \$360, if we hire another building inspector, we need to add another \$360 for a total of \$720 for cell phone allowance.

Slezak – yes, you are correct; don't say if we are going to hire someone.

Green – if I could make a general comment please, if my calculations are correct we are showing on the parks we are \$800,000 in the negative; granted we can't expect the parks to break even; we don't scrutinize that department like we should; we are getting out of hand over there; what are they doing over there; what kind of cost saving measures can we take; maybe we need to eliminate some activities; part-timers wages went way up on them; I would like to make a recommendation that we take two people from this board and set up a committee and she would have to report to that committee on the things she wants and explain where all the money goes; that is a lot of money; if we don't monitor that, she is just over there spending.

Tallman – I think we do monitor it by the budget.

Green – we don't question anything; we are not monitoring it we are just looking at numbers; we are not sitting down and asking what can we do different; are there too many activities; no granted we should have activities over there, just not as many; you've got the other side City of Davison, they do no activities and people still use their parks.

Tallman – and everybody complains.

Green – I don't see anyone sitting there at that park complaining there is nothing to do.

Tallman – well it is because they all come over to this park on the Township side for the activities; they do complain about the condition of the parks over there; the fact that the bathrooms are not open; the condition of everything.

Green – I am not talking about the, I'm talking about the activities; I think we do way too many; and she has a free hand to spend whatever she wants; we never question anything; not one expense; because she is sitting over there on a day to day basis and we are sitting over here on a day to day basis; I know she needs to be there, but maybe she needs to be over at this office twice a week; we do not scrutinize her at all; we are \$855,000.00 we are in the hole; raising our taxes higher is not a good feel; we need to get a board together to try and get this cut down.

Miller – I agree we need to look at this; but I don't agree with micro-managing a department; we don't do that for any other department; if she is within her budget that we approve, I don't think we have the right to step in and say; lets talk to her about it; I don't think we need to be in the concession stand business; we need to rent that out; I don't want to make a committee on how to spend and if she stays within her budget.

Green – I don't want to approve her budget at \$850,000.00; go on record to not approve it; we will in another year be over \$1,000,000.00 cost verse revenue; second thing I would like to

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make another comment on we need to look at the retirees; we need to move forward and have this person sit down with each retiree for one on one; they will get \$2,000.00 for a family to use; add that with Medicare B and it is covered 100% and stays with Blue Cross Blue Shield; we need to move forward immediately.

Slezak – I can at the boards pleasure set up time in July.

Green – it can't hurt; first time we did it wrong; this time we are with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Karr – Jim has pulled us all by ourselves and discussed this.

Tallman – I didn't response to the email because of the open meetings act; I spoke with Jim and we have a couple of other things to discuss; you have to email us individually.

Green – okay, thank you, I will start doing that too.

Slezak – yes, we need to look at the parks on the different activities or whatever it is; we know the maintenance is going to be there from here on out; nothing is getting cheaper.

Green – no, and I don't think we need to micro-manage either, but I think we can have a committee put together that will discuss things with her to open the idea of different things she can do or we can do differently in the parks; I don't want to run her day-to-day, just like I don't want anyone running my day-to-day; but I just think \$855,000.00 is at a stage we need to look at what we can do different in the parks.

Miller – parks are being used more by outside residents; I wish we could say if you don't live in Davison Township, you can not use the parks; taxpayers paid for this; I think we need to have a talk about that at a later date.

Green – just open up discussion about it at a later meeting.

Slezak – anything else to discuss on the budget?

Miller – what happens if the negotiations keep dragging out? Can we adopt a budget?

Slezak – we can adopt the budget and if it goes higher, we have to amend the budget.

Tallman – yes, we have to adopt and then amend if it is needed.

Green – if they don't approve this by the end of the month, doesn't MERS go up and we are stuck at that rate for a year?

Slezak – no, we don't have to wait a year; it can be changed per month; but they would be on the hook for the month; month to month; he did let me know that it is not retroactive.

Tallman – so anything in the contract has to be effective on contract date.

Slezak – yes; not us right now it is up to them; there representative and our lawyer said it might not be done until September.

Tallman – maybe that will be an incentive to get this done with the MERS going up like that.

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Green – one of my staff members came to me and said they won't be able to afford it.

Slezak – can't force them to do anything; any other questions on the budget.

Karr – if I have any questions on it, I'll call you to discuss.

Slezak – yes, please call me and let me know; Jami and myself have been going line by line putting in comments after we figured out calculations; I want to know every line and how it came up to that the number.

CONTRACT LABOR FROM RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Miller – Tracy Hook from Richfield; the township sent Ashley over there about a year ago to help out and fill and paid Ashley a rate of \$25/hour; Tracy does not work on Friday's but only has Friday mornings available; she stated she would be willing to come in and help; I don't know if she would expect money.

Slezak – we would have to pay her.

Miller – in the past I sent Lori over to help out for the treasurer.

Slezak – if it a one time go for two hours to help them.

Tallman – I would expect to pay her since she is not working on Fridays.

Miller – It would help her to come out and help Jessica with check cutting; I don't know what her schedule is; that is the only one that reached out.

Tallman – did David reach out to you about the name he has for elections?

Miller - no, he has never reached out yet.

Tallman – he had a good thought about a person.

Miller – I did receive an application today about someone interested in election/assistant clerk position, but has no election experience; I am going to reach out to the board of elections and explain my problem.

Tallman – reach out to David.

Miller – okay, I will set up a special meeting if we get someone like that; can we do zoom?

Slezak – no; on Tracy she can come in Friday mornings 8-12, \$25/hour?

Miller – I am thinking maybe two months at the max.

Slezak – two months she will have two cycles; \$25/hour.

Karr – who is in the Clerk's department now?

Miller – Hannah was Ashley; Jessica is replacing Hannah; we are not replacing Alma; Kim is eventually replacing Alma; I am not going to put a third person in there; once Alma is gone, she is gone.

Tallman – right, but Kim was hired to replace Alma.

Miller – Kim is replacing Alma.

Karr – so it will be Kim and Jessica in the Clerk's department.

Miller – but we do need a dedicated person for the election; it is not just an election year; your qvf has to be brought up weekly at the least; there is more stuff coming down from the state for some more rules for elections; that's why I purposed part-time so we don't pay benefits; they can help in other departments; I am doing my hardest and I don't want to get to the point to throw up my hands and walk away.

Tallman – lets reach out to Lattie.

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MOTION BY TALLMAN, SECOND BY MILLER to approve contract labor with Tracy Hook from Richfield Township at the rate of \$25/hour not to exceed two months and 10 hours a week. Roll Call: Karr – yes; Miller – yes; Tallman – yes; Green – yes; Slezak – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE A PAY RATE INCREASE FOR CHRIS WALKER IN THE TREASURER’S DEPARTMENT

Slezak – raising her up from \$14/hour to \$15/hour.

Miller – she is at \$14/hour, I think she should make more than \$15/hour but she has to cap it out at \$15/hour because of social security; she has bailed us out; help with Sheila when she was behind on elections; she is not in the union.

MOTION BY KARR, SECOND BY TALLMAN to approve the pay rate of \$15/hour for Chris Walker in the Treasurer’s Department. Roll Call: Miller – yes; Tallman – yes; Green – yes; Karr – yes; Slezak – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY KARR, SECOND BY GREEN to adjourn at 12:15 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Patrick Miller, Clerk

Jim Slezak, Supervisor