

Dundee Township Board of Trustees  
Special Budget Meeting  
December 10, 2019

Supervisor Glee called the Special Budget Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:31 PM at the Dundee Township Meeting Room, 611 East Main Street, Suite #201, East Dundee, IL.

**Present at roll call:** Supervisor Glee and Trustees Ahrens, Harney, Schaffer and Johnson were present at the roll call.

Trustee Harney led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda:**

Trustee Harney made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Ahrens seconded the motion. Supervisor Glee called the motion and all present voted "aye" - motion carried.

**Township Budgets for Fiscal Year Beginning March 1, 2020 Ending February 28, 2021:**

The Board initially reviewed the version of the Budget worksheet that would be used in the discussion. Several Trustees voiced concern that the version distributed at the meeting was modified from the last version distributed to them thereby making several line number references incorrect. A decision was reached to use the newest version of the budget worksheet.

Trustee Johnson distributed a worksheet he had prepared that presented the revenue and expenditure projections for the Town Fund and showed a projected deficit of \$553,541 for the FY 2020-21.

Trustee Schaffer stated the Board should not spend more than the projected revenues. He quoted TOI guidelines which recommend a Township keep a 12-month reserve. He said he felt the solution is not to go to a referendum but rather to budget and live within the current revenue flow. The solution may not be to spend money over the projected revenues.

Trustee Johnson distributed his 5-year spending "diet" plan that would decrease allowable spending every year over the next five years until expenditures were less than revenues. Trustees Harney and Johnson stated that to balance the budget the Board has no option but to cut personnel and programs.

The Board discussed areas that could be cut. Trustee Schaffer suggested that the Board implement an across the board 20% cut. Attorney James Rock concurred that such a move could be made however, he cautioned that the Board needs to assure that the Assessor's Department can adequately function.

Trustee Ahrens suggested that the Township get rid of the Open Space properties as we are unable to generate any revenue from these properties. Attorney Rock replied that this could not be done as the Open Space properties were voted in by the electors. Also, the Township would need to get rid of all the properties not just one parcel.

Trustee Harney and Supervisor Glee presented an option to move the salary cost of 2 full time and one part time position in the open space department and pay these costs from the open space account not the general town fund. Also, they reviewed the need to take 25-50K from the Open Space fund to prepare "shovel ready" projects for the State of Illinois Capital fund grant.

The Board discussed the potential staff cuts that could be made. Trustee Schaffer requested that a separate spreadsheet showing the actual employee costs including benefits be put together so that the Board can make more educated decisions as to the actual cost savings that would occur if a position were terminated. He also suggested that the Board may need to modify the overall benefit program including the need for employee contribution to the health insurance program. The Board discussed whether it would be best to pursue the

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graduated step-downs as originally proposed by Trustee Johnson or do one large cut to immediately reduce the budget by \$550K.

The Board next reviewed the Ride in Kane program. The growth of the program was reviewed along with problems the program is having with Pace in controlling the distances of rides. The Board was informed that they can not stop rides to a single class of rider but rather they would have to cut the entire program. If the entire program would be cut, all the grants would be lost and most likely would not be able to be reinstated.

The Board continued to review the budget, the idea of different referendums to increase revenues and the planning for a budget based on no new revenue. The Board was asked to continue to review the budget and prepare list of items that could be reduced.

**Public Comments:** Chris Kempf of Algonquin Shores made the following comments: Mr. Kempf presented quotes from when the Open Space program was being debated 20+ years ago that said once you buy Open Space you never have to pay for it again. He said the Supervisor keeps pushing for a referendum – government in Illinois has made lots of open space by increasing taxes and forcing people out of the state. Government must be more productive. Mr. Kempf said that John Schmidt , Village President of Algonquin, was quoted as saying that the only thing that should be on open space is a bird. Mr. Kempf expressed that the Township uses only top of the line equipment when cheaper models should work. He concluded that Open Space fans don't have to worry about the land anymore because no developer is going to build in Illinois due to the high taxes – stop spending money on Open Space.

Cheryl Adderley of West Dundee reviewed her work in the Township Food Pantry and how grateful the people especially seniors are to have this service available for them.

No other members of the public wished to make a comment and the Public Comment period was closed.

Trustee Harney made the motion to adjourn with a second by Trustee Schaffer. Upon voice vote, all present voted "aye" – motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.



Robert Block  
Dundee Township Deputy Clerk