**Leland Township Board Budget Meeting**

**February 8, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

**Leland Township Office, 224 W. Main St., Lake Leelanau**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Susan Och, Clerk Lisa Brookfield, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Trustee Clint Mitchell, Trustee Mariann Kirch

**GUESTS:** Rich Rossman, Kirby Willis

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rich Rossman – Mr. Rossman is concerned about the road conditions in his neighborhood. There are 32 residences on Oxford Street. Large chunks of asphalt have come loose. People are unable to ride bikes down the road. Snow trucks kick up large asphalt chunks onto lawns. He has contacted the Road Commission. Work was done on the road 10-15 years ago. There was some resurfacing. There has not been any serious work on the road in 30 years. Oxford is the only access to the houses on Whaleback so there is a lot of traffic on the road. The large pieces of asphalt on the lawns is hard to clean up. Ms. Och will contact the Road Commission to see if they can help out.

Kirby Willis – He commented on the poor condition of Oxford Street. When the road was paved in Leland, the pavers were parked on Oxford and crumbled their road. Also, Oxford is used by commercial vehicles as a turnaround because of the generous cul de sac. He shared pictures of the problem.

Ms. Och passed out a list of estimates for roads that she has received. Figures represent 50% of the cost. The Road Commission pays 50% and the Township pays 50%. Ms. Och also reviewed a history of road building and recessions in the Township and its effect on infrastructure. The Road Commission is not required to contribute 50% but historically has done so. Oxford has really deteriorated. The freezing and thawing of the warm winter is also detrimental to the road. The Road Commission is encouraging using a special assessment to pay for the road repair. The impetus has to come from the Township. Another option is to take out a bond, which requires a vote. Susan would like to put everything in an infrastructure plan.

Harbor Budget – Jeremy Anderson

Ms. Kirch asked about the dredging. Workers are paid extra on a separate contract. She was concerned that workers are being paid for their regular work while being paid for dredging work as well.

*594 Operating Fund*

Mr. Anderson is looking for ways to generate income at the Harbor. The proposed budget is $875,000. They are having trouble with the larger boats blowing out electrical circuits. They did change out a lot of breakers last year. The larger boats use more wattage than what is available. The Harbor cannot charge back to the customer for the over usage. He would like to be able to charge more to larger boats who need more electricity. State harbors charge $2.00 a foot.

50% of the Operating Fund balance needs to go to the Improvement Fund for the dredging. Harbor profits do not sustain expense of dredging. There are 4 employees who are AB certified to pump fuel. Mr. Anderson would like to have 6 employees to pump fuel so there could be 4 per day. They make $12-$14 per hour plus tips.

*Wage increases*

For most employees, a 8.5% – 9% increase is desired. It would be about a dollar an hour. Neil would get about $25 an hour. Paul would get $18-$20 an hour but he is also cutting back his time. Russell’s wage is staying the same. Jeremy’s salary is at 55,000; he is asking for $65,000. The Harbor marina was in the top ten nationally. The reviews since Mr. Anderson started have improved. He works a lot of 7-day weeks. The Harbor Commission approved $65,000 at the beginning of his tenure. They have approved the present budget. Mr. Anderson is always available for emergencies.

The Annual meeting is march 18, 2023.

*Harbor Commission pay and administrative expenses*

There was a question about raising Commission members’ wages as well. The medical allowance changed to $13,000. The Board discussed the Harbor budget line by line. The note has been paid off.

Administrative duties are done by the Township Office. The Harbor is charged $15,000 for this work. There was discussion about the administration fee. Ms. Brookfield had done a presentation about what the Township office does for the Harbor. This system is not typical. Another option would be for the Harbor to hire a bookkeeper to do the work that the Township does.

There was discussion about a 5% increase. As a sidenote, the Fire department wants to automate their payroll. Then the Township office won’t be doing it. Mr. Anderson will do some research about what a bookkeeper would cost the Harbor.

*595 Improvement Fund*

Ms. Kirch asked about the cleaning budget. Mr. Anderson used the same number as last year. He also explained the tender modification, repairs and maintenance expenses which has increased.

General Fund

*Sidewalks*

We have a contract with Gosling Czubak for $146,000 which doesn’t include Mudslide Hill. $209,000 was put into the budget. River Street from 1st street to Grand Avenue needs to be done.

We do not yet have a number to plug in for Sunset Shores. Ms. Korson is now contending the width of easement. The engineer will check with EGLE to see what is required. We can budget $50,000 to wrap this up.

We still need the Parks and Rec budget which will be completed this evening at their meeting.

The Assessor says legal costs could be $1000 instead of $4000. There was discussion about the Assessor’s salary. She is paid per parcel and there are 2,580 parcels. She is asking for $16 per parcel plus an assistant fee of $200. She has not received an increase since 2019.

*Property Tax Administrative Fee*

If this fee is implemented, it would not go into this year’s budget. With the administrative fee, the Township could run the Operating Fund without doing a millage. It was suggested to develop a project plan and hold a millage vote for specific projects.

It is required to review an administrative fee each year. Ms. Och did some research and found that the 1% does not cover the expenses that are allowed. The fee has to go into a restricted account.

*Maintenance Employee Wage*

Ms. Kirch asked for a job description for Ken Hagstrom’s job. It will be put on the March agenda. There was discussion about the work that Mr. Hagstrom does. The snow removal at the Art Building and the Library was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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