

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Kevin Connick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

2017 Budget Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2017

Attending: Chair Kevin Connick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, and Fire Chief Gene Stevens. Chair Connick called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

Discussion Points:

- Supervisor Brooks noted a trend for the past several years: the year-end balance of the general fund continues to decline, indicating we are consistently spending more money on general fund expenses than the levy brings in.
- Chair Connick provided the board with a pie chart of the average relative expenditures in townships across Minnesota: On average, Road & Bridge is 59% of expenses, General Government is 18% and Fire is 12%.
- The township could possibly get an additional \$50,000 earmarked for Parks & Recreation this year if the Proctor ISD bond referendum is approved on February 7.
- Reminder: General Fund levy money can be spent on anything, even FD or roads. Road & Bridge funds must be spent on road expenses and Fire Department levy money must be spent on the FD.
- The board is now using a different timeline/process than we've used in the past for deciding the annual township Fire Relief contribution: Instead of deciding the 2018 contribution at the 2017 budget meeting, they will now be approving the 2017 payment in August of 2017. At that point the board will know what the state is contributing for the current year, what the township is required to contribute, and what the relief fund actually needs. The board reiterated their commitment to keeping the fund solvent. The new procedure will ensure one board is not illegally obligating a future board to a set payment. Chief Stevens asked to see documentation proving this is the correct procedure.
- The FD is distributing fire safety calendars to all township homes in the coming weeks. The calendar was funded through advertisements. They are hoping the calendars will encourage donations to the Fire Relief Association.
- At the Annual Meeting (March 14) the electorate only decides three levy amounts: The General Fund, Fire Department and Road & Bridge. They do not get to decide the individual levy amounts for the different sub-funds (i.e. The General Fund is comprised of General, Parks & Rec and WLSSD accounts. Fire Department is comprised of FD Operations, Fire Truck Replacement and Fire Relief Contribution).

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to recommend the following levy amounts for 2018:

- General Fund: 117,200
- Fire Department: \$100,000
- Road & Bridge: \$80,000

TOTAL = \$297,200

Discussion: the total levy has been at this amount for the past several years, despite the growing tax base. The general fund amount is a \$5,000 increase from the 2017 levy (\$112,100), the FD amount is down from the previous year (\$107,475), and Road & Bridge is up slightly (from \$77,625).

The board felt these amounts could accomplish all township needs and allow them to move forward with township goals. The recommended totals will go in the newsletter. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

The board also discussed the 2017 budget specifics: The treasurer was told to carry over the 2016 amounts to 2017 as a starting point. The FD is planning on purchasing some expensive airpack bottles this year, along with two infrared cameras. We will finalize the mini-pumper purchase this spring. The treasurer will also add a \$12,000 line item in Parks & Rec for building the dugouts.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, authorizing Treasurer Borndal to move money from the general fund account to parks & rec to get it back to zero (the account finished 2016 \$4,300 in the hole). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
March 1, 2017

Kevin Connick, Chair
March 1, 2017