

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Comnick
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES **February 16, 2016**

ATTENDING: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Chief Clyde Mortinsen, Fire Relief Treasurer Scott Mercier and Firefighters Brian Macallister, Percy Johnson, and Nick Sirois.

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and the board reviewed budget documents provided by Treasurer Borndal. This included a worksheet detailing the following for each fund for the past few years: the year-end balances, the actual disbursement totals and the incoming money from levies and grants. There was also a detailed proposed budget for 2016.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Campbell, to approve the 2016 budget as presented by the treasurer. Discussion: the revised budget takes into consideration the recently approved road projects, the remaining amount due for the court reconstruction, and legal expenses. There are some remaining variables (i.e. pending grants for the AIS inspections or rec area projects) which will be adjusted as needed in the coming year. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Campbell, seconded by Comnick, to contribute \$17,475 to the Fire Relief Fund in 2017. Discussion: this is the maximum township contribution as determined by the mil levy formula. There was some discussion about whether the township should wait until a later date to determine the contribution, since at this point we do not know the state contribution amount, the minimum township requirement or the return on the relief association's investments.

Chair Brooks also presented: 1) a table of the last ten years' worth of state/township contributions, and 2) a table suggesting that the township contribution could decrease and the retiree benefits could be increased if the relief association saw a better return on their investments. This year they had an average of 1.13% interest. The relief treasurer said they are content with their conservative but reliable investment approach and the fire department membership is not in favor of anything riskier (i.e. the options available to them through the state).

Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Comnick , seconded by Campbell, to recommend the following 2017 levy amounts:

General Fund: \$112,100
Fire Department: \$107,475
Road & Bridge: \$77,625
(Total = \$297,200)

Discussion: The overall levy has been at \$297,200 for the past several years. The 2017 General Fund levy recommendation is the same as 2016. The Fire Department levy is up slightly (from \$106,000) to include the planned increased contribution to the Fire Relief Association. The Road & Bridge levy is down slightly (from \$79,100) from 2016.

The Fire Truck Replacement fund will be depleted this year (2016) and likely go \$30,000 in the hole with the purchase of the new mini pumper. In the recent past, \$45,000 of the FD levy money has been added to the truck replacement account. In 2017, that \$45,000 would bring the replacement fund back up to \$15,000.

However, all those present at the meeting agreed that some of that \$15,000 could be used (if needed) to cover some major operating expenditures the FD is anticipating for that year (i.e. 20 replacement airpaks for \$900 each, a new thermo camera, replacement gear, a weeklong training course in Indianapolis, etc).

The Road Fund finished 2015 with \$205,000; even with a slightly lower levy amount in 2017, the board believes there will continue to be enough money for the planned roads projects.

The board opted to not divide up the various general fund levy amounts (to Parks & Rec and WLSSD); they can more accurately budget that this fall when there is a clearer picture of the town's needs and plans, etc.

Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Borndal will research whether North Shore Bank (or other banks) can offer us improved CD interest rates.

Motion by Campbell, seconded by Comnick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
March 2, 2016

Kurt Brooks, Chair
March 2, 2016