

**RIVES TOWNSHIP HEARING / ~~Board Meeting~~
2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET
April 6, 2022
Rives Junction, MI 49277**

A Hearing for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year budget was held Tuesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:00 am. Members present: Supervisor Jerry Adams, Clerk Judi A. McCord, Treasurer Janina Teske, and Trustees Christine Beecher and Bryce Hammond.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing for the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget that was required to be redone by law.

Motion by McCord supported by Teske to approve agenda as changed. Roll Call: Hammond No; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; McCord Yes; Beecher Yes: 4 Yeas 1 Nay

Hearing opened at 7:00 AM

Questions / Answers

Question - Why do we need staff wages of \$12,000?

Answer – Staff covers payroll, maintenance, and trustee per diem, not just our staff personnel.

Question - What are we doing with roads?

Answer – We approves two roads, Losey Road and Cooper for repaving.

Question – Is our permit dept making that much money besides increasing our permits to increase our wages to \$18,000?

Answer – Yes, with improvements with the township we expect that to be quite high this year even though materials are up.

Question – Park Improvements – Do you have any plans at all for any of that yet, or is it optimistic and budgeting for it? Do you have actual plans for it? It is Territorial Park or is it for the downtown park.

Answer – We are hoping something does happen. We need thoughts and ideas on anything that might be done.

Question – Can we have a cleanup day at Territorial Road?

Answer – Brian Weber was hired to clean up Territorial Park at our last meeting and we expect the house to be removed by the end of the month.

Question – How much of the \$18,000 is going to be spent on the downtown park for the kids. Are there any plans for that?

Answer – We don't have any dollar amount for that. Not at this time the money is just there. We don't have nay particular amount of money planned on either of our three parks. We need the interest of the residents and we can focus on getting those things done.

Question – Why are we only doing question and not comments?

Answer – This is a public budget hearing which we have questions during the public hearing on items of the budget only. This is questions and answers only.

Question – Why do we continue to have admin fee when we have all that money from Covid Relief from the state.

Answer – There again we have talked about that in the past. Money there is optional is to leave that at 2% pretty small amount for individual taxpayers. That pays for all the assessing portion of the township assessing bills and why we have left that on. If the board wishes to change that then the board needs to make a motion and get it changed. It's the discretion of the board. It's there to take care of anything with assessing and as you know assessing is not cheap. And Covid money cannot be used for that. It would have to be a motion brought by this board.

Question – Fire department ask for a \$2 raise but they received \$1. Is there something we can do with this budget for them to have a one-time bonus instead of a raise? So, it's only a one-time issue and it was a year ½ ago they got a \$1000 bonus.

Answer – What you have to understand is that we have talked about this before is our fire department volunteers aren't doing this because of an extra \$1.00, it's because they love what they do and love being a part of a team. You were at the fire department meeting with Rives and Tompkins, Tompkins did not want to give them a dime.

Question – Park mowing is only \$3,000.00; with the gas prices we aren't going to give that guy any more money?

Answer – He will be adding a fuel surcharge to his invoicing. This \$3,000 is for Territorial Park and the Ballfield only.

Question – Known expenses on salary have been over inflated of the base salary. What other cost comes out of the base salary?

Answer – Monthly meetings of clerk, supervisor, and treasurer, region 2, bureau of election meetings, drain commission meetings along with miscellaneous, are included in the base salary line item. An example STC ran out of money due to postage and supply increases. Money was moved from the treasurers' salary line to balance her department budget. Costs go up, it's hard to project exact cost, so it is important to have a build in allowance for us to do this at the end of the Fiscal year.

Question – How much are you spending on road?

Answer – \$181,000 the road budget will increase to \$200,000 if the budget is approved. We approved the \$181,000 for road repairs at the last meeting so now we increased the road budget line item.

Question – Are those the only two road you are going to repair? What about Zion Road

Answer – We are only responsible for local road. We have 35 miles of local road. Cooper will be a 2" overlay from Territorial to Berry, Losey will also be a 2" overlay from Cooper to the township line. The county will be doing Territorial from Lansing Ave to Bunkerhill. We are working with the count to see if they can do some repairs while they are out here skip paving to cover up bad spots. Residents can report pot holes to the count on their face book site for call their office.

Question – Didn't Rives get federal money for Road?

Answer – We did get Covid money but it would get us 2.8 mile of roads.

Question – is the Covid money different than the \$150,000 in improvements?

Answer – Yes, the \$150,000 is for all properties not just office and. It would include the two fire stations along with the township hall.

. This board has reduced the budget projected every year in the last four years and has not spent the projected budget in the last four years. The budget is larger this year due to the ARPA funding we received from the federal government.

Hearing adjourned 7:29 AM