

**RIVES TOWNSHIP HEARING / Board Meeting  
2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET  
March 10, 2022  
Rives Junction, MI 49277**

A Hearing for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year budget was held Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:00 pm. 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.

Motion by McCord supported by Beecher to approve agenda as changed. 3 Yeas 1 Nay

Hearing opened at 5:10 PM

**Questions / Answers**

Question - Why isn't last years' information included in the budget?

Answer - This document is the budget that is being approved for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

Question: - Why is the budget projected higher than actual amount?

Answer – Budget are projected higher than actual amounts to cover unexpected costs.

Question - How much are you looking to pay the zoning enforcer this year?

Answer - We have reached out to Jeff Fitzpatrick for a quote we have not yet received a cost or if he will even contract with us.

Question – If Jeff Fitzpatrick doesn't take this job will you be paying the zoning enforcer \$15000

Answer – No our zoning enforcer resigned December 31, 2021.

Question – Why is the cleaning amount being increased?

Answer – We have increased cleaning from once a month to twice a month.

Question – Why is the building department salary wage permit going up?

Answer – We expect an influx of building in the township. Inspectors have not had raise since 2017.

Question – Permit department salary who is that person gets that wage?

Answer - Building department funds itself. The inspector's administrative fees, staff permit, and written permit fees are applied to the building dept.

Question: If I go purchase a permit for \$100 you charge me \$120, I pay an extra \$20.00 for the permit to be written?

Answer: This is a stand-alone department we do not charge extra to write a permit.

Question - How many people are in the building department?

Answer: Two plus the inspectors. Salary/Wages Permit Dept also covers administrative costs of the inspectors

Question – So there are more than two people who dip into that \$18,000?

Answer – Yes there are two building department employees and three inspectors.

Question – If we don't spend the full amount where does that money go?

Answer – It is not going anywhere it's not money this is projected costs for expenditures.

Question – Who is monitoring the permit department?

Answer – The clerk monitors the budget for revenue and expenditures.

Question – With the increase in salaries once the covid money is gone how do you plan to fund them?

Answer – Covid money is not being used for salaries. The intention is to purchase a new fire truck for \$388,125. Additional funds will be used to improve the office, by eliminating the water intrusion, and move our records upstairs.

Question – So what is the other \$106,000 going to be used for?

Answer – We need to focus on getting the building water tight and the records brought upstairs just leave the furnace, water heater and mechanicals in the basement.

Question – How much of this purposed budget is going to be backfilled by this money - are you are going to take \$ 106,000, all the money for township maintenance will not be used?

Answer – It may not be used. It is a line item for projected cost and we do have other properties other than the township office. It won't be spent if we don't need it.

Question – Your dream is to use \$106,000 to fix the township hall?

Answer – Yes if it receives board approval.

Questions - Staff wages can we drop this?

Answer - This includes trustee wage, payroll staff, and miscellaneous staff.

Question – How do we get this administrative fee decreased so we help our community members when our taxes are moving up?

Answer – The admin fee would have to be voted on by the board. The admin fee pays for everything to do with assessing wages, mailings, paper, postage and all things assessing.

Questions – When was the office open?

Answers – It has never been closed

Question – What are we doing with the legal fees for the zoning inspector?

Answer – Our trustee is causing the increase in our legal fees and it has not been resolved yet, and we can't be sure we won't have similar issues within the township.

Question – How many blight cases do we have in the township

Answer – I don't know at this point.

Question – If there was to be two Bryce zoning issues and our legal fees were \$21,000 what would you do?

Answer – Make a budget adjustment.

Question – Then why not reduce the amount to \$5000?

Answer – State of Michigan requires the township to create a budget and stay within it.

Question – Why have we doubled the cleaning amount? Why aren't the firemen cleaning up after themselves?

Answer – We don't pay the firemen to clean. They are paid by the run for their volunteered time. Their responsibility is to keep our fire trucks and other equipment clean, not township property.

Question – Software computer maintenance has gone from 6000 to 8200 this year what are we doing with software and computer maintenance?

Answer – This is our annual fees for email, tax, assessing, general ledger, payroll, special assessment, accounts payable and building department software updates.

Question - Is the township looking at buying property?

Answer – we have investigated several options; at this time, we are not looking at purchasing.

Question - How many people are being paid in the office?

Answer - There are six employees that work at the office.

Questions - When are you going to do something about Cooper and Maple Grove Road?

Answer - Maple Grove is a county road. The County map of roads is on our website. Cooper is on our list of proposals to improve.

Question - Is Territorial on the list to be redone?

Answer - Lansing Ave to Bunkerhill Road going east but that's 100% county road. This will be done by their new 5 million apparatus.

Question – Is State Road a county or township road?

Answer – State Road is a county road.

Question – Will there be another workshop before the meeting?

Answer – we will do it prior to the hearing.

Question – Is it possible to have the 2021 numbers for compare?

Answer – That information will be available.

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 6:42 PM

Gary Schuette came and spoke about the \$40 million required to upgrade the Wesley Street jail.

Rives Township Board Meeting called to order at 7:17 pm.

**Motion by Adams supported by Teske to increase the inspectors wage by \$10.00 per inspection. Roll Call: Hammond Yes; Beecher Yes; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

Consent agenda was adopted for the following items.

RRI Transfer

Sewer Payment to USDA

Poverty exemption resolution 2022-02

Financial institutions resolution 2022-03  
Tax millage resolution 2022-04  
Tax collection JCISD 2202-06  
Tax collection Jackson College 2022-07  
Cemetery/historical appropriations  
Warrants and Payroll

**Motion by Adams supported by Beecher to approve consent agenda items that were requested removed by Hammond; December 9 2021 board meeting minutes; February 24, 2022 budget workshop minutes; buy sell real property resolution 2022-05; annual meeting dates, and Cambri lawn/snow contract park mowing addition. Roll Call: McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Beecher Yes; Hammond Yes; Adams Yes; All Ayes – Motion carried.**

Financial report was given.

**Motion by McCord supported by Teske to transfer funds to dept 371 building dept - \$4500 from dept 336 fire department – Equipment Repairs. All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by McCord supported by Beecher to transfer funds to zoning enforcer - \$2000 from dept 336 fire department equipment repairs. All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by McCord supported by Teske to continue serving the public thru drive-up window, drop box and by appointment Roll Call: Beecher Yes; Hammond No; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; 4 Ayes 1 Nay – Motion Carried**

**Motion by McCord supported by Beecher to accept the ARPA funding from the Federal Government. Roll Call: Hammond Yes; Beecher Yes; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; – All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by McCord supported by Adams to obtain quotes for engineer to review our office building remodel. All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Teske supported by Adams to use remote capture deposit in order to deposit checks. It will cut down on mileage running checks to the bank. Equipment Cost will be free normal cost is \$400 Monthly Cost is \$25 normally \$50 then .10 per check. Roll Call: McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Beecher Yes; Hammond Yes; Adams Yes; – All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Teske supported by McCord to approve collection site wages to \$14.00 an hr. Roll Call: Beecher Yes; Hammond No; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; - 4 Ayes 1 Nay – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Teske supported by McCord to raise the deputies to \$18.00 an hour Roll Call: McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Hammond No; Beecher Yes; Adams Yes; 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Hammond for a moratorium for no raises, rate increases for 1 year for salaries or hours and then put it on the ballot. No Support - Motion Failed.**

**Motion by McCord supported by Teske to approve resolution 2022-08 to increase the supervisor salary to \$18,000 and for non-statutory duties for sewer at \$300 a mo. Roll Call: Beecher No; Hammond No; McCord Yes; Teske Yes Adams Yes; 3 Ayes 2 Nays – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Teske supported by McCord to approve a wage increase of 4% for the treasurer. Roll Call: McCord Yes; Teske No; Beecher No; Hammond No; Adams Yes; 2 Ayes; 3 Nays – Motion did not Carry.**

**Motion by Hammond supported by Beecher to approve road proposals, Losey Road Cooper to township line in the amount of \$49,161.08 for .501 miles and Cooper Rd Option 1 between Berry and Territorial in the amount of \$130,071.90 for 2.21 miles. Roll Call: McCord Yes; Beecher Yes; Teske Yes; Hammond Yes; Adams Yes; All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by McCord supported by Beecher to approve Election Resource Invoice for annual maintenance for tabulator and voter assist terminal in the amount of \$1230.00. Hammond No; Beecher Yes; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; 4 Ayes – 1 Nay – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Adams supported by Beecher to approved BSA Software annual service support fee in the amount of \$1422 from Feb 1 2022 to Feb 1 2023. Roll Call: Teske Yes; Beecher Yes; Hammond Yes; McCord Yes; Adams Yes; All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Adams supported by McCord for 2 computers from IT Right in the amount of \$1847.50 Roll Call: McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Hammond No; Beecher Yes; Adams Yes; 4 Ayes 1 Nay – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Hammond to get 3 bids for propane. No support – Motion Failed**

**Motion by McCord supported by Teske to lock-in the price of propane with Avery Oil for the 8682 Lansing Ave fire station and collection site. Roll Call: Beecher Yes; McCord Yes; Hammond No; Teske Yes; Adams Abstain. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 Abstain. – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Adams supported by Hammond to appoint John Brennan Jr to the Planning Commission. Roll Call; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Beecher Yes; Hammond Yes; Adams Yes; All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Adams supported by McCord to approve road sign for Trumble Lake in the amount of \$250.00. Roll Call: Beecher Yes; Hammond Yes; McCord Yes; Teske Yes; Adams Yes; All Ayes - Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Beecher and supported by McCord to approve an increase of \$20.00 per permit across the board. Roll Call: Hammond Yes; Beecher Yes; Adams Yes; Teske Yes; McCord Yes; All Ayes – Motion Carried.**

Public Comment – 8:46 PM  
(5) Comments

Meeting Adjourned: 9:08 PM

Submitted by Judith A. McCord  
Rives Township Clerk