

Washington Township Budget Workshop
Meeting July 11th, 2017 — 6:00 PM
Held at: Washington Township Government Center
311 Production Drive, Avon, Indiana 46123

Call to Order and Pledge

Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM and the pledge to the American flag was given.

Quorum

Quorum was established. Fred Palmer and Suzanne X Conger present. Also in attendance: Trustee Don Hodson, staff and public.

Public Comment

None.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Don Hodson stated that the department heads would be presenting their proposed 2018 budget.

Department Presentations. All department presentations can be found on the township website.

1. **Fire Equipment and Park Bonds.** Township Administrator Josie Conrad presented the 2018 proposed Fire Equipment debt fund bond for a total of \$477,486 and the 2018 proposed Park Fund bond for a total of \$556,148.
2. **Public Assistance.** Public Assistance Director Monica Bales presented the proposed 2018 public assistance budget. Monica Bales stated that as a result of the township clothing voucher program that began on July 1, 2017 there has been an increase in assistance request. Therefore, she did not have a significant change to her budget from the previous year.
3. **Park.** Park Director Lora Lacey presented the proposed 2018 Park Fund budget. When the information was presented concerning adding a maintenance superintendent position, Fred Palmer stated his concern was that he felt as if the salary was too low to get an adequate individual to fill the position. Fred Palmer suggested the salary be between \$40,000 and \$45,000. Lora Lacey and Trustee Hodson stated they would look at the budget to try and make the recommended adjustment. Suzanne Conger and Fred Palmer stated that they both felt that we need to pay adequately to keep quality people.
4. **Fire and Cumulative Fund.** Fire Chief Dan Smith presented the proposed 2018 fire and cumulative fund budgets. Chief Smith explained that we have had three resignations within the past three weeks and one of the reasons given by those individuals was pay. Chief Smith also stated that we have expired our hiring list and will be needing to do a new hiring process. During the past few county wide hiring processes that the department participated in we have not been able to attract individuals who rank high. The reasons being given by those individuals are pay and pension based, therefore, he is recommending a six percent pay increase for merit personnel and the five administrators involved in fire responses. He also explained that the pension base being proposed was established by using the 2017 fourth year firefighter base pay and the average individual participate payment of the 2017 retiree medical disability. He explained that most departments use a fourth or fifth year base pay and longevity. Our department does not have longevity and instead has a retiree medical disability plan. Fred Palmer asked questions to better understand how Chief Smith came up with the pension base. Fred Palmer asked if the members would still receive the retiree medical disability program. Chief Smith acknowledged that they would and explained that those departments using longevity were also receiving that in addition to their pension base.

Chief Smith stressed that even Brownsburg members were receiving free medical insurance and were paying a 6% employee contribution to the 77 Fund. Chief Smith explained that his desire is to get parity to at least pay and pension base with the surrounding departments.

Public Comment

None.

Recessed

Meeting recessed at 6:59 PM for the purpose of holding the Township Board Meeting.

The Budget Workshop resumed at 7:36 PM.

Chief Smith resumed his fire presentation for the 2018 budget. Chief Smith asked if there were any questions about the 2018 proposed cumulative fund. There were no questions.

5. **General.** Township Administrative Josie Conrad presented the 2018 proposed general fund budget. She asked if the board had a desire to change their pay of \$3,600. Both members stated that they had no desire to change their pay. Josie Conrad pointed out that there was a line item for continuing education which was just approved previously by the township board.

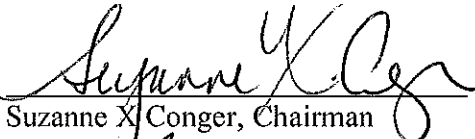
Wishes to be Heard

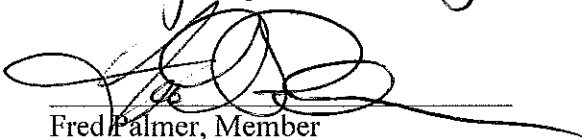
Trustee Hodson asked if there were any desired changes or information needed from what was presented. Both members stated that at this time there was not and that they would potentially have questions or changes before the second budget workshop on August 8, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

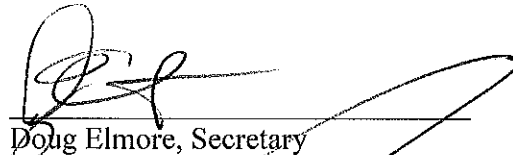
Adjournment

Fred Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting and Suzanne Conger seconded the motion. **Motion carries 2-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next Budget Workshop meeting will be August 8th, 2017 at 6:00 PM. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be August 8th, 2017 at 7 PM directly after the Budget Workshop. All meetings to be held at Washington Township Government Center, 311 Production Drive.


Minutes Approved August 8, 2017:


Suzanne X Conger, Chairman


Fred Palmer, Member


Doug Elmore, Secretary

Attest:


Don Hodson, Trustee