

Empire Township
Continuation of the Annual Meeting
August 25, 2020

The Empire Township Continuation of the Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM.

Present were: Mike Carey, Jessica Boelman, Nicole Bower, Jeff Hince, Denise Williamson, Jamie Elvestad, Terry Holmes, Charles Seipel, Brian Hilgardner and Jane Kansier.

Charles Seipel presented the proposed 2020 Empire Township Tax Levy, collectable in 2021. It was reported that the proposed budget follows the itemized revenue and expenditure categories in the new accrual fund accounting system. Park & Rec is now under the general fund. Many of the expense items related to roads and bridges such as payroll and equipment have been placed in the Roads & Bridges fund. As a result, the proposed levy shows a decrease in the General Fund portion of the levy and a corresponding increase in the Road & Bridge portion of the levy.

Expense items for Park & Rec improvements have been increased to accommodate anticipated repairs on sections of the trail system and the replacement of playground equipment at Sachs Park. The Road & Bridge Fund includes a proposed increase in expenses for road maintenance materials and capital outlay expenses for the purchase of a new mower deck and trade in of an existing mower.

The debt service levy is set at 105% of principal and interest payments on the 2019 GO Bond for the upcoming year.

The enterprise fund is forecasted to have funds available for the purchase of investments due to an anticipated decrease in the general sewer expense. It is recommended that the Township consider increasing water and sewer rates in the future to permit additional purchase of investments.

The total proposed 2020 tax levy is proposed to be set at \$1,341,327, which is a 3% increase from the previous year's levy. However, when the increase in the Township's tax capacity is factored in, the total proposed levy increase amounts to approximately -4%.

Those in attendance made the following recommendations: the decrease in building inspection services expense from \$50,000 to \$40,000; the increase in Road and Bridge engineering from \$30,000 to \$100,000 and Road & Bridge capital outlay from \$35,000 to \$335,000 in order to accommodate the construction of the proposed 190th Street ditch.

Mike Carey made a motion to approve the proposed 2020 tax levy, collectable in 2021, as presented and discussed at this meeting. Jessica Boelman seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.