

**RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 9, 2024**

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Special Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee's Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on May 9, 2024. Trustee Jim DiPaola called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola, and Hank Gibson, Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman, Fire Chief David Moore, Fire Dept. Liaison Mark Kozak. Lt. Keith Gemberling, Lt. Matt Frawley, and Firefighter Jason Myers.

The purpose of the special meeting is to pass a resolution to expire the fire department 5.0 mil levy and to hold a work session to discuss the fire department budget and operations.

At the regular meeting of May 1, 2024, the trustees passed resolution #24-044 to expire a 5.0 mil levy. The language in that resolution did not match the language in the resolution passed when that levy went on the ballot. As a result, a new resolution has been drafted and #24-044 will need to be rescinded.

A Motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to rescind resolution #24-044. R/C: Vince Coia, yes; Jim DiPaola, yes; Hank T. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

RES #24-052 Hank T. Gibson moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2020, the board of trustees passed resolution #20-074, a resolution of necessity to levy a 5 mil renewal tax, and then resolution #20-084, a resolution to proceed with the submittal of that tax to the electors for the purpose described in RC 5705.19(I), to tax an renewal levy of in excess of the ten-mill limitation at a rate of 5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value;

WHEREAS, the question of the above levy was submitted to the electors of Ravenna Township in its entirety at the election held on November 3, 2020, and was approved, commencing in 2021 to be collected in 2022, and continuing for 5 years thereafter until 2025, to be collected in 2026.

RESOLVED, the Board now desires to proceed with the expiration of this renewal levy, passed through resolutions #20-074 and #20-084, on July 28, 2020, and approved by the electors on November 3, 2020, because the levy is no longer needed and so the Board hereby adopts this Resolution to Expire.

RESOLVED, the board of trustees, wishes for the levy to expire beginning in tax year 2024 to be paid in 2025 and for all years thereafter.

RESOLVED, that the Township Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to certify, to the Board of Elections, Portage County, Ohio, a copy of this resolution to expire a levy and thereafter to the Portage County Auditor.

Jim DiPaola seconded the motion and the roll was called on the question of its adoption. The vote was as follows: Vince Coia YES Jim DiPaola YES Hank T. Gibson YES
Adopted, May 9, 2024

Gail presented the 2025 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources received from the Auditor’s office stating the tax revenue to be received in 2025. The additional amount to come in for the 6.1 vs 5.0 mil levy is \$481,048 and that amount was added to the budget worksheet. It was noted that the department will still run in an operating deficit for 2024, but the additional revenue next year will prevent a deficit. Next she showed many different ‘what if’ models of the budget going forward. Each showed staffing and capital options and were discussed. An option adding one full time firefighter in 2024 and then allowing for planned capital purchases and capital budgeting was presented as an option she was comfortable was sustainable at this time.

There was much discussion about hiring a full-time firefighter and the options it presents to closing the gap at keeping the station staffed with 4 at all times. Staffing has been challenging and it was noted that a new employee as a floater to fill in the schedule where gaps exist is a viable solution. .

Mark also noted that he has applied for the Safer Grant requesting funding for 3 new full-time firefighters for 3 years. The grant decision will not be made until this fall. The trustees requested that Dave bring candidates to the Board to be screened for hiring as one person as full time addition to the department at this time. Other new full-time additions will not be considered until we receive word on the Safer Grant.

Jason Myers raised the issue of using a part time staffing model that includes what is called the dependables. This is where the part time staff is guaranteed a regular schedule to make scheduling easier and fill the gaps. It was done successfully under Chief Kozak, but then Covid hit and it was not workable under those changed conditions. The trustees agreed this should be pursued.

There was addition discussion on training and identifying areas where the training can be increased such as training during live inspections.

It was a very productive work session

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to adjourn special meeting at 8:49 pm. R/C: Vince Coia, yes; Jim DiPaola, yes; Hank Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE