

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING OF JUNE 25, 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 June 25, 2024 for the purpose of holding a Budget Hearing on the 2025 Township Budget. Trustee Jim DiPaola called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola, Hank Gibson; Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman; Fire Chief Dave Moore, Road Superintendent Ray Taylor, and Assistant Fiscal Officer Jon Summers.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

FISCAL OFFICER

The fiscal officer presented the 2025 Tax Budget and a discussion regarding the details of the budget was held.

The 2025 Revenue budget overall totals \$3,072,986 compared to \$2,799,391 in 2024. The Fire Levy is projected to increase the revenue more than \$400k, interest is conservatively projected to decrease by \$50k.

The 2025 Expenditures, for now are projected at \$3,510,039 compared to \$3,143,073 for 2024. Fire staff and equipment will be higher and there is \$75k budgeted for a new road vehicle.

Grand total all fund balance at the end of 2025 is projected to be \$3,422,577 compared to \$3,859,629 for 2024.

We are spending the ARPA money and costs are rising.

General Fund:

- Interest Income – Rates have been since 2022 allowing us to earn annually 2022 \$110k; 2023 \$150; 2024 \$170k; reduced for 2025 to \$50 because of spending need and future unpredictability. The general fund receives the interest from the ARPA fund which has been very helpful for shoring up the general fund.
- Partial lien release sales have added to the fund by 2023 \$11k (1) and 2024 \$14k (3) these are not in forecast because of unpredictability and they are one-time deposits.
- NOPEC grants received 2023 \$7095 and 2024 currently is \$1,500 with \$50,000 available for us to pull from to offset costs of improvements to the buildings.
- Maple Grove - 2023 \$172k; 2024 \$182k; 2025 \$200k – increasing at a very high rate annually and future increases are unpredictable because they are out of our control

Fire Funds:

- Tax income will start coming in 2025 because of the 6.1 mil levy, an increase of \$420k
- Donations for the past couple of years have been >\$15k; not budgeted for 2025 because it is a gift and not considered regular income
- Grants for staffing and large equipment purchases have been denied for the past couple of years; because of their unpredictability we must not use them as a source of regular income for budgeting.
- Wages are sure to increase 2024 to 2025 because of the goal and need to staff the station consistently with 4 on shift as well as increased costs.

- Equipment costs have skyrocketed in recent years making the need for saving and budgeting with financing options in the future that much more critical in order to have equipment in good functioning order.

Road Funds:

- Interest Income – the Road fund receives interest and has also benefitted by the increased rates.
- Gas tax has significantly increased starting in 2020 since the state increased it. It has held steady around \$145k/year helping to fund paving.
- Paving in 2023 was 50% paid for with grant proceeds. Projects slated for 2024 and the next several years do not qualify for grant funds and will need to be fully paid for with Township funds.

Zoning:

- Fees received in 2023 were \$9k and are projected to be \$7k for 2024 and \$4k for 2025
- Costs of compliance have increased because of the shift to private legal counsel for the most egregious cases, but it has been very effective.
- As always, the zoning fees do not cover the costs of operating the department requiring the general fund to supplement by about \$35k to \$40k per year. This will not change.

ARPA:

- Carryover fund balance at 1/1/2024 was \$533k
- Expenditure expenses in 2024 include the Remount Ambulance of \$182k; \$80k to Kent Kennedy Center, \$30k to the architect for the cold storage building.
- I estimated the construction cost of the building at \$130k in the budget to be paid out in 2025 although we do not have more firm numbers until the bids come back. The remaining \$111k will be used for technology and communication upgrades to the township. The balance that must be encumbered by 12.31.2024 is \$241,335.25.
- Funds must be encumbered by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026; anything remaining must be paid back
- We expect to use all remaining funds.

ECONOMIC FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

- Voters approved 6.1 mil Fire Levy to collect in 2025; if this had not been approved our budget discussion would be very different. Thank you, voters!
- Unpredictability of current economic climate
- Interest rates on investments – they increased suddenly and could decline just as suddenly.
- Interest rates for cost of borrowing for equipment purchases – most likely will not decrease suddenly and may have a steady very minimal decline over several years.
- Increased costs of purchasing equipment along with years in production makes early planning more important.
- Property tax values to increase in 2024 with collection on the 2025 tax year.

- General fund levy is set for renewal in 2025; it is a 1986 3.5 mil levy currently collecting at 1.28 mils for Residential and Agricultural and 1.659 mils for Industrial.
- EMS levy will be up for renewal in 2026, it is a 2.0 mil levy currently collecting at 1.55 mils for residential and 1.94 mils for industrial.

2025 Budget Summary

#	Description	Beginning Fund Bal.	Revenue w/ Transfers	Expenses w/ Transfers	Ending Fund Bal.
1000	General	\$ 1,213,315	\$ 690,217	\$ 792,554	\$ 1,110,977
2011	Road MVL	41,212	80,150	80,000.00	41,362
2021	Road Gas Tax	56,297	147,901	150,085	54,113
2031	Road & Bridge	826,619	360,265	423,403	763,481
2041	Cemetery- Grandview	109,079	95,150	134,284	69,945
2111	Fire	524,624	1,140,516	1,141,556	523,584
2273	ARPA	241,335	-	130,000	111,335
2281	Fire EMS	201,359	264,500	285,847	180,012
2282	EMS Levy	127,202	290,362	371,959	45,604
2401	Special-PMHA	1,545	300	50	1,795
2402	Special-Pine Ridge	2,469	500	50	2,919
2403	Special Forest Ridge 1&2	6,691	1,200	100	7,791
2404	Special Forest Ridge 3&4	4,233	750	50	4,933
2405	Special Breakneck	3,840	700	50	4,490
2406	Special Forest Ridge 5&6	2,127	350	50	2,427
2901	Special-FEMA	-	-	-	-
2902	Special-Flagpole Maint.	22,635	-	-	22,635
2903	Special-CARES Provider	-	-	-	-
2905	One Ohio Opioid Fund	1,088	-	-	1,088
4401	Public Works Comm	-	-	-	-
4901	Capital Projects	454,305	-	-	454,305
4951	Flagpole Bequest Fund	6,200	125	-	6,325
9002	Agency-Fire Loss	13,454	-	-	13,454
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 3,859,630	\$ 3,072,986	\$ 3,510,039	\$ 3,422,577

The budget is requested to be approved during the regular meeting session

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Jim DiPaola to adjourn the hearing at 7:00 p.m.
R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE