

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting – 2024/2025 Budget Meeting**

**Thursday, May 30, 2024
3:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333
MINUTES**

**MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Special Meeting
May 30, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Deb Mousseau, Dave VanHouten, Rob Heethuis, Larry Knowles, Mike Cunningham
(All Present)

ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Frank Fiala

Visitors: 1

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to add the Planning Commission request and a roll call vote to the agenda. *Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: no.*

**MOTION TO REVISE
AGENDA**

Yes: 4, No: 1. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to approve the agenda as amended. *Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes.*

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion:

- **Spongy Moths (Gypsy moths) Update:**
 - The office has received a number of calls from residents about gypsy moth problems in the past week. Other townships have seen the same thing.
 - The township participated in gypsy moth spraying programs in 1997 through 2001 and again in 2009. These programs were in conjunction with the Barry County Conservation District and Barry County. The township cost for participation was handled by a special assessment district.
 - The county and conservation district have been contacted and the BOT has been copied.
 - There are no plans in place for spraying this year and it is considered too late in the season to do it at this time. The DNR has stated that they do not think this reaches that level of concern and will die out on its own.

**DISCUSSION RE
SPONGY MOTHS**

Board Action Items:

- The Planning Commission has made a request for permission to do a postcard mailing and survey asking for input on updating the Township Master Plan.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to support the Planning Commission's request to mail a survey card to obtain master plan information. The survey and card and cost will be revisited and reviewed by the BOT before mailing. Discussion: The postcard would indicate the dates for public input as well as a code to scan for an online survey. Discussion took place as to whether it is worth the cost and if it is a fair representation of township residents since typically the response rate is low. The residents already have an opportunity to give their input at the public meetings. **Roll Call Vote:** Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: no; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: no.

Yes: 3, No: 2. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Water System 2024/ Budget:
 - The budget is very similar to the 2023/2024 budget.
 - The revenue numbers are slightly higher due to interest rates (which could change) and the expenses reflect the end of the water tower bond payment.
 - This will be voted on at the 06/26/2024 Budget Public Hearing.
- Wage Discussion
 - Discussion on wage increase/decrease percentage for 2024/2025. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security is 3.2% for 2024.
 - The Board feels this is an appropriate amount to be included in the 2024/2025 budget.
 - There are three duties that are currently performed by the Township Clerk. These are non-statutory duties that can be performed by other employees. The Board feels there should be a payment stipend attached to each of these positions and included in the new budget.
 - Recycling Center Manager: Suggested stipend \$1,500 annually.
 - Cemetery Manager: Suggested stipend \$2,500 annually.
 - FOIA Coordinator: Suggested stipend \$1,500 annually.
 - This will be voted upon at the next budget meeting.
 - The Board agreed to include an increase of \$1,200 annually for the Deputy Clerk salary in the proposed budget. The deputy clerk must handle a lot of the new election law mandates.
 - Currently the Zoning Assistant's pay rate is \$.78/hour less than the other two administrative employees. The Board feels this should be adjusted to match.
- Review rough draft Rainbow Budget of 2024/2025.
 - Board members discussed areas to increase/decrease as each area was reviewed.
 - Adjustments were suggested and will be incorporated into the proposed budget for the next meeting on June 12.
- Other items to be considered on 2024/2025 Budget
 - The general fund balance has been growing. The Board needs to consider what balance should be maintained.
 - It was decided to revisit the idea of revenue reduction versus additional spending in one year.

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**MOTION TO
APPROVE PC
REQUEST TO MAIL
SURVEY CARD**

**WATER SYSTEM
BUDGET
DISCUSSION**

WAGE DISCUSSION

**REVIEW ROUGH
DRAFT 2024/2025
BUDGET**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank Fiala: complimented the Board on the process and has three points to share. One, there are major things going on in the State about revenue for funding roads with something called a Mileage Based User Fee to try to be fair. Two, in terms of the Planning Commission asking for a survey, the training has shown that we want to give people some say in this. It should be something very simple with a few questions to give people the opportunity to have their say and they don't necessarily get their way. Finally, sitting on the Road Commission, we need to get a projection from the Road Commission with regard to what expenses will be coming up and when.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Thanks everyone and thanks to Mike for doing all the charts.

VanHouten: Likes the process we go through to understand all of it. It gets better every year.

Cunningham: No comment.

Knowles: The ceremony at the Veterans Memorial was handled well and thanks to Julie Fox for her donation.

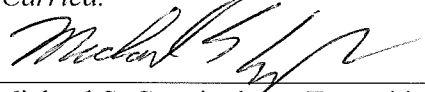
Heethuis: I did contact Julie and thank her. A year ago, this meeting took two and a half hours. This year's was a little shorter so maybe the next one will be quicker.

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 PM Approved by all. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Approved by: 
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Date 6/20/2024

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
May 31, 2024