



**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF
THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022, 5:20 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees for the Town of the City of Bloomington convened for a public hearing in the Government Center Chambers at 5:22 p.m., Monday, November 28, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Mwilambwe.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Trustees Present: Grant Walch, Donna Boelen, Sheila Montney, Nick Becker, Mollie Ward, Jeff Crabill, Tom Crumpler, and Mboka Mwilambwe

Trustees Absent: Julie Emig, De Urban

Elected Officials Present: Deborah L. Skillrud, Township Supervisor, and Steve Scudder, Township Assessor

Staff Present: Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Township Clerk

Public Hearing

Item 1. Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Amended Budget

Township Supervisor Deborah Skillrud addressed the Board and reported the changes to the budget included an increase to the Capital Fund Reserve for the building renovations of \$908,179 and unexpected revenue from the Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT), which was conservative in the past, had been rewarding and offset some of the costs.

Supervisor Skillrud also reported that \$91,241 went towards building repairs and special projects not included in the capital fund reserve.

Item 2. Public Comment/Discussion

Trustee Mwilambwe opened the floor to the public and no one stepped forward to speak.

No discussion was had by the Board.

The Public Hearing closed at 5:24 p.m.



**MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION OF THE TOWN OF
THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022, 5:30 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees for the Town of the City of Bloomington convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 28, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Mwilambwe.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Trustees Present: Grant Walch, Donna Boelen, Sheila Montney, Nick Becker, Mollie Ward, Jeff Crabill, Tom Crumpler, and Mboka Mwilambwe

Trustees Absent: Julie Emig, De Urban

Elected Officials Present: Deborah L. Skillrud, Township Supervisor, and Steve Scudder, Township Assessor

Staff Present: Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Township Clerk

Consent Agenda

All items under the Consent Agenda are routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Trustee or Elected Official so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Trustee Crabill made a motion, seconded by Trustee Ward, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

Item 4.A. Approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2022, Board Meeting as requested by the Township Clerk. (Recommended Motion: The October 24, 2022 Board Meeting minutes be approved.)

Item 4.B. Certify the October 2022 Statement of Funds for the General Town Administration Fund, General Assistance Fund, and Cemetery Fund as requested by the Township Supervisor. (Recommended Motion: The October 2022 Statement of Funds be certified.)

Item 4.C. Approve the November 28, 2022, General Town Fund Request for Payments as requested by the Township Supervisor. (Recommended Motion: The November 28, 2022 Request for Payments be approved.)

Item 4.D. Approve the 2023 Annual List of Meetings and Holiday Office Closures as requested by the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk. (Recommended Motion: The 2023 Annual List of Meetings and Holiday Office Closures be accepted.)

Trustee Mwilambwe directed the Township Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler, Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

Item 5. Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 Amended Budget as requested by the Township Supervisor. (Recommended Motion: The Fiscal Year 2023 Amended Budget be adopted and Ordinance 2022-03 be passed.)

Trustee Ward made a motion, seconded by Trustee Boelen, the Fiscal Year 2023 Amended Budget be adopted, and Ordinance 2022-03 be passed.

Trustee Mwilambwe directed the Township Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler, Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Item 6. Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Levy for Tax Year 2022, as requested by the Township Supervisor. (Recommended Motion: The Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Levy for Tax Year 2022 of \$2,351,600 be adopted and Ordinance 2022-04 be passed.)

Trustee Boelen made a motion, seconded by Trustee Crumpler, that the Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Levy for Tax Year 2022 of \$2,351,600 be adopted, and Ordinance 2022-04 be passed.

Trustee Boelen asked if the tax levy was the same as last year. Supervisor Skillrud stated the tax levy was the same rate as the last 5 years.

Trustee Mwilambwe directed the Township Clerk to call the roll:

AYES: Walch, Boelen, Montney, Becker, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler, Mwilambwe

Motion carried.

Reports by Elected Officials

Item 9.A. Comments by Deb Skillrud, Township Supervisor

Township Supervisor Skillrud addressed the Board and discussed the System Board Report of Statistics and noted a number of applicants were pending the submission of additional required documentation. She reported a total of 53 applications were denied for General Assistance Program with 21 who were then moved to the Emergency Assistance Program. She further reported that 27 out of the 53 applications did not submit required verifications; 3 were over the income requirement for both General and Emergency Assistance Programs; 1 falsified documentation; and 1 exhausted Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) which meant they were no longer eligible to receive Township assistance. She explained staff's efforts to assist with the application process along with frequent reminders of missing documentation, but there remained applicants who still failed to submit necessary documentation.

Supervisor Skillrud described a specific case of an applicant who had suffered many hardships. She noted the applicant was qualified for Emergency Assistance but that it would not cover the past due bills. She reported that Township was waiting to provide aid until

after the Board meeting as the applicant would qualify for the Housing Eviction Relief Efforts (HERE) Program which would then cover all the expenses.

Trustee Boelen asked about the kind of information that applicants needed to provide. Supervisor Skillrud explained the types of documentation required, such as proof of income, assets, and residence status (as they must reside in Bloomington Township) and noted that providing required documentation is difficult for some individuals. She stated that Township is working with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to gain access to their system which will allow Staff to locate important information on behalf of the applicant through an online portal.

Trustee Crabill asked if any other Townships were able to get required information directly from the State (i.e., DHS) to which Supervisor Skillrud responded in the affirmative. Ultimately, though, if all required information is not provided, applicants are denied.

Trustee Ward asked if there were other barriers for applicants besides obtaining documentation. Supervisor Skillrud explained that there were several possible barriers such as landlords not accepting payments, transportation to and from the Township Office, and computer illiteracy and how staff works to combat them.

Trustee Ward encouraged Supervisor Skillrud to continuously assess the system for reoccurring issues. Supervisor Skillrud replied that denials are reviewed and changes made as patterns emerge. For example, many applicants were denied for being over income, so Supervisor Skillrud increased the maximum income limits thereby allowing more applicants to qualify.

Trustee Crumpler asked how Township anticipated the assistance for residents whose rental rates increased. Supervisor Skillrud stated that the HERE Program, which was part of the General Assistance, would assist.

Trustee Crumpler asked if the HERE Program would reduce the number of evictions in Bloomington. Skillrud stated that it was Township's hope that evictions would be reduced.

Item 9.B. Comments by Steve Scudder, Township Assessor

Township Assessor Scudder addressed the Board and stated that today was the last day to file an appeal against the Equalized Assessed Values (EAV).

Trustee Crumpler asked if Assessor Scudder could track property values of rental properties based on EAVs. Assessor Scudder stated that data on rentals was limited but that property values across the board were increased.

Trustee Boelen asked for additional information on a portion of the minutes that were approved tonight, specifically the neighborhood rates after McLean County placed an equalizer on the City. Assessor Scudder explained how Township staff adjusted EAVs and how McLean County determined an overall adjustment was still required. He then spoke about how neighborhoods were sometimes much broader than the blocks residents tended to associate them with.

Public Comment

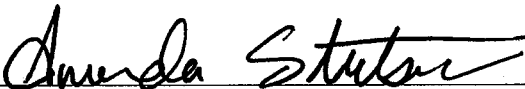
Trustee Mwilambwe opened the meeting to receive public comment. Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Township Clerk, reported that no one had registered to speak live or had submitted emailed public comment.

Adjournment

Trustee Boelen made a motion, seconded by Trustee Becker, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously (Viva Voce).

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.


Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Township Clerk