

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2016**

Supervisor Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Supervisor Schmitt, Clerk Tischler, Treasurer Mooney and Trustees,  
Cook, Nelson, Scarcello and Walsh

Absent: None

Others Present: Sandra LaJoie, Deputy Clerk, Beverly Hills  
Robert Borgon, Beverly Hills, Liaison, Beverly Hills

**STUDY SESSION OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET:**

Supervisor Schmitt suggested the Board go through the Budget, section by section, as has been done in previous years and opened the floor for discussion.

The Board discussed various items such as Township's Fiscal Year, Dog Licenses, General Operating Reserve - Fund Balance, Raising the Millage, Items that are Fixed Amounts-such as Assessing and Animal Control Contracts, Election Reimbursement, Elections in general, Penalties, Board of Review, Phones, Election Equipment, and Increase in Precinct Worker Pay, Capital Purchases, Tax Appeals, Elimination of line items that are zeroed out, Education in the Clerk and Treasurer's Department, Longevity, Capital Purchases and the Rummell Drain.

Clerk Tischler mentioned the other Fund items in the Budget Session documents that were reviewed included, Fund 401- Capital Improvement Fund, Fund 403 - Capital Purchases and Fund 601 – Internal Service which covers unemployment costs.

Treasurer Mooney mentioned the requested amount under "General Fund" "Current Property Tax" \$575,000 is the number from last year. Treasurer Mooney indicated the number for Revenue from Current Property Tax will change; once more current information is available.

The Board went through each section of the Budget and made only one change in the Treasurer's Department under "Education" the requested amount was changed from "\$1,000" to "\$1,200" dollars.

**Regular Meeting started at 7:40 p.m.**

**Supervisor's Report**

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Supervisor Schmitt mentioned the Administrative staff; Supervisor Schmitt, Clerk Tischler and Treasurer Mooney met on January 5<sup>th</sup> with Roberta from DRS, our health insurance agent.

Supervisor Schmitt noted the Supervisor and the Trustees are not eligible for health insurance coverage.

Supervisor Schmitt indicated the plan will be similar to last years but co-pays and deductibles went up slightly for the elected officials as well as the employees due to changes mandated in Obama Care.

Clerk Tischler commented she was disappointed that the plan will not allow the cost of prescriptions to be applied to yearly deductibles.

### **Clerk's Report**

Clerk Tischler mentioned 109 dog licenses have been issued as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 compared to 95 in 2014 and 6 cat licenses have been issued in 2015 compared to 2 as compared to January of 2014.

Clerk Tischler noted the Township Office will be closed on January 18<sup>th</sup> in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Clerk Tischler stated just before Christmas, Absent Voter Applications for the Presidential Primary were mailed. Approximately 800 applications have been returned for processing.

Clerk Tischler added Merchant Licenses and Hardship Applications were mailed on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mooney commented to date, 60 % of the winter tax collection has been received with a little over a month to go and 97 % of the summer tax collection has been received. Treasurer Mooney added reminder notices will go out to residents who have not paid their winter taxes on February 18, 2016.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT CONTAINED ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA:**

Robert Borgon questioned who handles the Township's legal work.

Supervisor Schmitt responded Secrest, Wardle, Lynch, Truex, Hampton and Morley, P.C. and added he would highly recommend the firm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Supervisor Schmitt requested item 7a-Discussion and Possible Resolution to Accept Gift from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Motion** by Mooney, supported by Walsh, to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

Supervisor Schmitt offered the December 8<sup>th</sup>, meeting minutes for approval.

Trustee Nelson requested on page 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph down, first line after “to” strike “a resident about Southfield Township at Books-A-Million” and insert after “to” “the manager of Books-A-Million about Southfield Township.” Trustee Nelson requested on page 17, second paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> line beginning with “Trustee Nelson” strike the entire line start a new paragraph and insert “Trustee Nelson asked the Supervisor if a need arose for a ~~swat~~ S.W.A.T. team where would they come from.” Trustee Nelson requested on page 17, after the third paragraph insert a response from the Supervisor worded “Supervisor Schmitt responded they would come from the County.”

**Motion** by Scarcello, supported by Cook, to approve the December 8, 2015 Board meeting minutes as amended.

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GIFT FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:**

Supervisor Schmitt stated the Daughters of the American Revolution gave the Township a donation of \$75.00 in appreciation for the use of the Township’s meeting room. By policy, acceptance of the donation requires Township Board approval.

**Motion** by Nelson, supported by Walsh, to accept the gracious donation of \$75.00 from the Daughters of the American Revolution to be used toward beautification of the Township Building.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Tischler, Mooney, Cook, Nelson, Scarcello, Walsh, Schmitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DECEMBER EXPENDITURES:**

**Motion** by Walsh, supported by Scarcello, to approve the December expenditures as follows:

101 General Fund	\$ 43,969.78
703 Tax Fund	<u>\$ 3,626,673.15</u>
Total	\$ 3,670,642.93

**Motion** carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

No one wished to be heard.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:**

Trustee Scarcello commented he is leaving on January 22<sup>nd</sup> until March 15<sup>th</sup> and added he hopes to be back in time for the meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Walsh noted tomorrow South Oakland County Water Authority meeting will be at Clawson City Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Clerk Tischler noted additional documents will be provided regarding the Budget for the Public Hearing scheduled for February.

Trustee Cook pointed out in the Township News magazine House Bill 5016 noting it was very disturbing.

Supervisor Schmitt stated House Bill 5016 is expected to pass and added it is expected to be the first and all the rest of the utilities to follow.

Supervisor Schmitt adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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Phillip Schmitt, Supervisor

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Sharon Tischler, Clerk