

August 15, 2021

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 11:46 am. Trustee Rambo and Trustee Port were present. Fiscal Officer Karen Walder and Trustee administrator Melissa Palmer were also present.

Chairman Mueller was absent.

The Budget Commission reviewed the submitted budget. The trustees were asked about the progress on the storage building, that they previously promised to build to spend down the excess General Fund balances. Trustee Port reviewed that the old Fire Station was demolished following scrutiny at last year's budget hearing. Also, the proposed Fire Levy was removed from the ballot. Trustee Port explained the complications that they had with trying to design the storage building, and then the bids coming back over budget. The departments have budgeted for their own storage space in their budgets so there will be no big, shared storage building. Trustee Rambo explained the new two-year plan to renovate the Town Hall, and to build a new building for a meeting room / community room or to renovate part of the administration building for necessary meeting space while the Town Hall renovations are done. \$300,000 has been budgeted for the community room project. The commission asked for clarification on the Police and Fire department plans for their storage needs.

The budget commission noted that the General Fund still has an excess of funds, and although the board bought themselves some time by created reserve funds to put the money into, they will be watching those funds and looking to see that the trustees spend the excess money that they have or return it to the residents. Mr. Flaiz noted that the General Fund reserve fund already has a balance over \$565,000. Ms. Port described plans for 2022 Reserve Study update. Mr. Rambo expressed his support for the Budget Commission to take money away if the Board does not spend it.

The budget commission suggested the Board consider a reserve fund for the Community Meeting room/Town Hall projects. They noted that the budget submission was in order and commended the progress that was made. They encouraged continued communication between the Board and the Fiscal Officer.

The Budget Commission approved the 2023 budget submitted by Russell Township.

Mr. Rambo made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Port seconded and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Kristina Port, Vice-Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Dorka