

Madison Township Board Meeting
7047 E. Landersdale Rd. Camby In 46113
October 12, 2023
7:00 pm

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Johnson at 7:00 pm.

Present: Trustee Larry Ellis, Board Chairman Jim Johnson, Board Member Ronnie McClure, Board Secretary Nelson Hoggatt, Clerk Tina Turner

Absent: None

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge was recited by board and audience.

- III. **Prayer/Moment of Silence:** Observed by board and audience.

- IV. **Adoption of Minutes:**

Ronnie made a motion to approve the September 28, 2023 minutes as written, 2nd by Nelson.

Motion passed 3-0.

- V. **Resolution 2023-16 Petition for an Excess Property Tax Levy:**

Nelson said he is against this levy because it is a tax increase for Township Fire and EMS. He said even though the overall tax rate for all funds did not increase from the 2023 rate of .1928 due to reductions in other funds, it is a missed opportunity to reduce taxes.

Gregg Terhune said the burden of funding Madison Township falls on the property owners. He said we need to create a more balanced tax base by bringing in more businesses and that is unlikely to happen unless we bring property tax rates down.

Nancy Hoggatt said she has visited Station #31 and observed the poor condition of the concrete. She feels that is a financial need that needs to be looked at. Trustee Ellis said he understands the condition of the concrete and tried to impress that on the board. He said now it is up to the board to decide if we want to spend money on that project. Trustee Ellis said it is going to take some financing or something of that nature because he does not know where to come up with \$201,000. Nancy asked what are the options. Trustee Ellis said the options are to take out a loan. He said if you are willing to put concrete in there are you willing to put more money in the

station to make it appropriate and considerable for people. He said he has not consulted with a builder yet, and he will, but he estimates that we will need to spend \$750,000 in addition to the concrete work. So, we are pushing a million dollars to get the station back up to speed. An audience member asked if we shouldn't be tightening our belts where we can. Trustee Ellis asked if they wanted to give up the service we are providing. The audience member replied they did not think we would be giving up any service. Trustee Ellis said in order to do that project at this time you would have to give up something. The audience member suggested using the excess levy. Trustee Ellis said one thing we are looking at are Grants. The government does give grants for things like buildings. Also, big box stores like Walmart give grants as well. We do have to prove we are worthy of grants. He said we would like to get most of the money from grants, but grants take 3 or 4 months.

Ronnie made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-16 Petition for an Excess Property Tax Levy, 2nd by Jim.

Motion passed 2-1, with Jim and Ronnie voting for and Nelson voting against.

VI. **2024 Budget Adoption:**

The board went through the 2024 budget.

General Fund:

No board members had questions concerning the Personal Services Category.

No board members had questions concerning the Supplies Category.

Ronnie had some general questions concerning the Services and Charges Category.

He asked for an explanation of the \$1,000 for the Travel Expenses Line Item and Trustee Ellis explained that is for the purpose of training travel expenses. Ronnie said he was curious why Utility Services went down \$2,000 from last year.

Trustee Ellis said they split it up a little different plus they now have lock boxes on the thermostats to control the building temperatures.

No board members had questions concerning the Capital Outlays Category.

Township Assistance Fund:

Ronnie asked if the \$31,435 for Township Assistance Fund is the total for the entire Township Assistance Fund and the answer was YES.

Township Fire and EMS Fund:

Nelson questioned the need for an Assistant Chief Line Item under the Personal Services Category and said he feels 3 levels of higher management is excessive for a relatively small fire department. Trustee Ellis said we have broken it down to 3 levels. If we could go back to a full time chief, which is his desire, we are covered in the budget. If we stay with 3 then we are covered in the budget as well. Someone from the audience stated this would be a good opportunity to save money by not including an Assistant Fire Chief.

Nelson questioned the Employee Health Line Item under the Personal Services Category. He said the maximum that would be needed for all eligible full-time employees is \$57,600 and \$72,000 is published. Ronnie said he has been in the health insurance business for over 20 years and the quoted rate is not a guaranteed rate. They can raise your rate at any time. In the insurance industry, their rates are estimates and they can and will go up.

Nelson questioned the Perf Line Item under the Personal Services Category. He said Perf has a set percentage of contribution that does not go up and that percentage is 19.1 percent . The published amount for Perf is \$107,700. The actual amount needed for all full-time employees is \$102,816.72. Trustee Ellis asked if that includes the 3% contribution for paramedics and Nelson said it does. He said they calculated \$107,700 and if our math is off it is off, we're not trying to fluff it. Nelson said it is a small amount of money, but if you get several items here it could add up to a lot of money.

Nelson questioned the Fuel Line Item under Supplies Category. He said based on what has been spent YTD and calculating the money for time remaining, it looks like \$27,000 would be enough. Trustee Ellis asked if he included the \$11,000 bill they just received from the School Corp. and Nelson replied no.

Ronnie questioned the Software Subscriptions Line Item under the Services and Charges Category. He asked if that is for new software or existing software. Trustee Ellis said it is for existing software.

Ronnie asked what the Payroll Fees Line Item under the Services and Charges Category is for. Trustee Ellis said it is for AccuPay Payroll Services.

Nelson questioned the \$30,000 PPE Line Item under the Capital Outlays Category that provides for purchasing 10 sets of turn-out gear in 2024. He said we do not need to purchase these sets in 2024 or 2025. We purchased 40 sets of turn-out gear in 2019 that expires in 2029. He said if we buy 10 sets in 2026, 10 sets in 2027, 10 sets in 2028, and 10 sets in 2029, we will have 40 sets in service when the 40 sets we currently have expire. Then we would not need to spend more money until 2035 when we would start that buying cycle over again and we would always have 40 sets in service. Jim asked if we would take a loan out then to buy them and Nelson responded no, we would put it in the budget. An audience member said we still owe money on sets we have that will not be paid for until 2025. Ronnie said he is not a fire expert and he has concerns about removing anything that is for their protection. Jim said he wants to leave the line item as is.

Ronnie made a motion to accept the Budget, 2nd by Jim.
Motion passed 2-1, with Jim and Ronnie voting for and Nelson voting against.

Ronnie made a motion to accept the Ordinance or Resolution for Appropriations and Tax Rates, 2nd by Jim.

Motion passed 2-1, with Jim and Ronnie voting for and Nelson voting against.

VII. Good to the Order:

An audience member asked Jim if anything is being done to bring businesses into the area so that we don't have to pay so much taxes. Jim said he really did not know.

Ronnie said there has been discussion about that in previous board meetings where Gregg Terhune and Mr. Webster talked about it. He said there was some discussion about forming a committee to work with Trustee Ellis.

Adjournment:

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Ronnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10, 2nd by Jim.

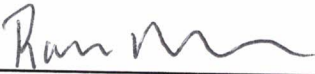
Motion passed 3-0.

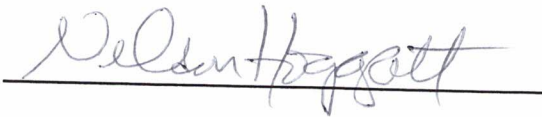
Minutes prepared by Nelson Hoggatt, Board Member Secretary

Dated this 14th day of December, 2023.

AYE

NAY





ATTEST:



Trustee Ellis, Madison Township Trustee

