

Columbia Township Board Meeting

September 28, 2023

Present at the meeting are Matt Minier, Trustee; Board Members: Mindy Muchow, Matthew Boyd, and Brandon Smith. Additional attendees: Shane Caudill, Mike Schrader and Nicole Minier. Meeting started at 6:30 PM at Columbia Township Fire Department.

Motion to call meeting to order by Brandon Smith, second Mindy Muchow, Motion carried unanimously, meeting called to order. The purpose of the meeting is to present the proposed 2024 annual budget prepared by the trustee, Matt Minier, and any other business that comes before the township board.

The first order of business is to adopt the minutes from the March 7, 2023, Columbia Township Board meeting. Brandon Smith read the minutes, Mindy Muchow made a motion to adopt them, second by Brandon Smith, motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were adopted.

2024 Proposed Annual Budget by Fund:

Rainy Day	\$ 12,100
General	\$336,800
Township Assistance	\$ 97,000
Township Fire and EMS	\$172,000
Cumulative Fire	\$ 50,000
Recreation	<u>\$ 18,700</u>
Total	\$686,600

Discussion of the budget:

Township Fire and EMS: emergency dispatch of \$20,000, trustee looking at contracting with Columbia City for emergency dispatch.

General: leaving equipment in budget at \$15,000 as a safety margin.

Township Fire and EMS: Adding Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief to paid positions of \$15,000 and \$12,000 respectively.

General: professional services, increase from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Brandon asked why, the trustee is not sure, just wants to have enough. Spent \$2,652 so far in 2023.

Utilities: covered in 2023 under fire budget, in General for 2024.

Township Fire and EMS: What are Firefighter Stipends of \$35,000. State Minimum of \$300, up to \$1,000 per person, though that amount not set in stone. The Fire Dept doesn't have a plan yet but is working on it.

The Township Assistance budget of \$97,000 will be covered out of reserves not an additional levy.

Mindy asked a question on Baseball Fees: township pays Columbia City for each child of Columbia Twp that plays baseball, softball, etc. Paid out \$12,220 to Columbia City.

Township Fire & EMS: Emergency Dispatch added from 2023 for \$20,000. Firefighters want to switch dispatch centers from Whitley County to Columbia City and will have to pay Columbia City \$20,000/year to do this. What are the issues: equipment or personnel? Appears to be both. The current radio issues will be fixed, some personnel issues also.

Current Financial Situation:

Cashed out \$301,000ish CD for truck and equipment purchases.

Have had one turned in pauper grave application, didn't qualify. 5 or 6 pauper grave / burial inquiries but didn't submit applications.

There being no other business Matt Boyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mindy Muchow, Motion to Adjourn unanimously carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Boyd', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Boyd, Secretary