



The Board of Trustees of Bath Township met in a special meeting on Thursday, **August 24, 2023**, in the Township Boardroom, 2880 Ada Road, Lima, Ohio.

**Members Present:** Brad Baxter  
Micah Hollinger  
Mike Meeks

Chairman Brad Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Meeting called to discuss the renewal and additional Fire Dept levies that will be on the November 7, 2023 election ballot.

### **TRUSTEES BUSINESS**

**Mr. Baxter** began the meeting with a presentation and discussion focused primarily on the Fire Department fund, and discussed the revenues and expenditures from 2012-2022 for the Fire Department and EMS funds. The Fire Department fund operates on 0.9 mill permanent levy, and a 3 mill levy that was passed in 2004. The Township has not requested any additional money for the Fire Department since 2004. While the Fire Department operates off of property tax revenue, the EMS fund is self-funded through healthcare billing. Mr. Baxter discussed the additional levy that will be proposed on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. He feels the 2.5 mill request will be sufficient to cover the Fire Department operating expenses for the next 5 years. The proposed levy was not designed to make money, but to cover expenses and position the Fire Department to maintain current staffing levels and delivery of services. In the overall discussion of all funds, Mr. Baxter emphasized how all funds have been operating off of reserves since 2012 with decreased revenues and increased costs. Primary reasons for decreased revenue are from decreases in PPT (Personal Property Tax) and delinquent property tax payments. After discussing the Fire Department fund, Mr. Baxter also showed revenues and expenditures from 2012-2022 for the Road Department fund, Sheriff Fund, and General Fund. The Township has an agreement with the Allen County Sheriff's office to provide deputies and police cruiser coverage for the Township. Previous decision was made to drop down from 3 to 2 Deputies. The Road Department has encountered many higher expenses, as it now can potentially cost up to \$100,000 to pave 1 mile of road. The General fund also continues to decrease with decreased revenues over expenses. If it was not for the receipt of COVID dollars, the Township would realistically have started discussing necessary levies years ago. Mr. Baxter wanted to address all needs in this meeting to be up front with Township residents because it's likely they will see additional levies on the ballot in the Spring of 2024, once the process has been completed to help shore up the Fire Department.

**Mr. Meeks** did not have additional comments at this time.

**Mr. Hollinger** did not have additional comments at this time.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Kitchen prepared and gave an additional presentation to explain how the Fire Department operates, including staffing levels and shift details. The Fire Department operates 24/7, with 3 full-time and 1 part-time employees per shift. The Fire Department received 1,807 calls in 2022, largely EMS driven which is normal. Overall, considering the Fire Fund and EMS fund, the Department operates primarily on 80% in property taxes, and 20% in EMS billing revenue. Chief Kitchen discussed increases in expenses for staffing. In order to remain competitive in the region, wages had to be increased. The Department has experienced increased costs for supplies, maintenance, etc. There are still current challenges around employee recruitment, retention, medical insurance premium increases, and overtime costs. Chief Kitchen encourages any residents to reach out to him directly if they have questions on costs, staffing, etc.

## HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There were (4) from the public in attendance.

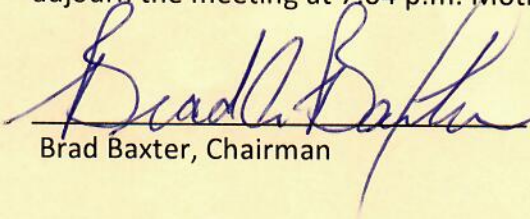
Brandon Webb, 3231 Cynthia Drive – Plans to submit a records request to the Township for more information to be able to make an informed decision. Mr. Baxter stated that any requests for records or additional information should be submitted in writing to the Township office. Mr. Webb also inquired if the Township has considered pursuing 1 main levy, instead of separate levies. Mr. Baxter explained that given the complexities of regulations at the State level, the decision was made to pursue levies such as Fire and Emergency services separately.

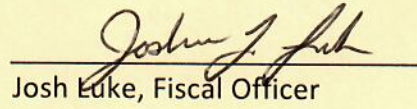
Clarence Roller, 3920 E. Bluelick Rd – Inquired about decreased in PPT (Personal Property Tax) revenue. Can decreases in tax funds be shown to better explain the changes made by the State? There are additional concerns around the potential decrease in CAT tax (Commercial Activity Taxes), which were put in place to help compensate for the reduction in PPT taxes. Mr. Baxter explained that while Bath Township has seen a gradual decrease in PPT tax revenue, there are other Townships that experienced a sudden cut off of funds. Mr. Roller also inquired about better ways to communicate information to Township residents. Mr. Baxter explained the creation of a new Township Facebook page that should be up and running soon. It will take word of mouth to help grow the page's following so as many Township residents as possible can see the information. Mr. Roller also discussed a potential mailer to all Township residents. Mr. Baxter stated this was something worth looking into, and it was determined a postcard mailer would likely be a cheaper option if the Township was going to pursue doing a mailer.

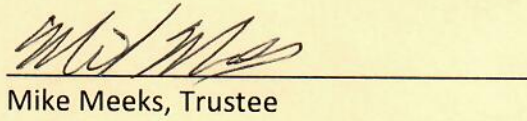
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bath Township will be held **September 5th, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m.** in the Township Boardroom.

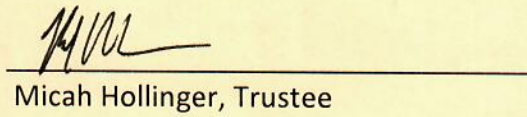
The next scheduled special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bath Township to discuss levies on the ballot will be held on **September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m.** in the Township Boardroom.

Being of no further business, Mr. Baxter moved, and Mr. Hollinger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

  
Brad Baxter, Chairman

  
Josh Luke, Fiscal Officer

  
Mike Meeks, Trustee

  
Micah Hollinger, Trustee