



The Board of Trustees of Bath Township met in a special meeting on Tuesday, **September 12, 2023**, in the Township Boardroom, 2880 Ada Road, Lima, Ohio.

Members Present: Brad Baxter, Micah Hollinger, and 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, and to increase awareness about other Township funding needs in the future.

TRUSTEES BUSINESS

Mr. Baxter began the meeting addressing the need to make sure that Township residents understand that while the primary concern right now is the Fire Dept fund, there will likely be future levy needs in Spring 2024 for the Road Department, Sheriff's Fund, etc. Mr. Baxter doesn't want Township residents to be confused about why additional levy measures would be placed on the 2024 ballot when they're voting on levy items in November. Regarding the overall position of Township funds, Mr. Baxter revisited the previous points of decreasing Personal Property Tax over time for the Township. This started to decrease in 2005, after the 3.0 mill Fire Department levy was passed. Meeting minutes from June 2004 were read, addressing less carryover funds that were available at that time. Recommendations from those 2004 meeting minutes specifically mentioned the need to address the Road Department and Sheriff Department funds and levy needs. Those recommendations at that time were not addressed, and many of these issues could've been taken care of then versus now. Mr. Baxter wanted to make it clear that the issues the Township is facing right now aren't because of mismanaged funds, or even issues within the last few years. It's a combination of decreasing revenue, increasing expenses, and previous inaction to pursue necessary levies. He went on to clarify for the Fire Department, that even if the renewal levy passes and the additional levy does not in November, there's a reality that the Township residents will not experience the same level of services provided by the Fire Department that they receive today. Slides from a presentation shown at the August 24, 2023 special levy meeting were shown again, and much discussion was centered around other area townships and the millage those fire departments are operating under.

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

Mr. Hollinger discussed how information needs to be laid out as simple as possible so Township residents understand the situation and what they're paying for.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Kitchen discussed Fire Department expenses overall. Most of the pie chart is made up of salary and benefits, while only a very small portion is actual operating expenses that can be adjusted.

Gary Jay mentioned the Road Department current revenue compared to expenses. Expenses are higher than revenue, and the prices of materials and services are only increasing.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

There were (11) from the public in attendance.

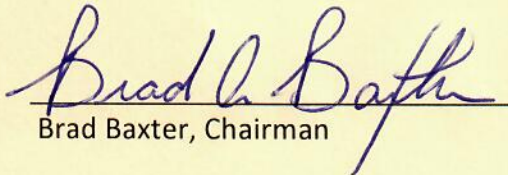
Berlin Carroll, 900 Fenway – questioned the funding model for Sheriff department services. In many other Townships, they aren't paying extra for these services. He encouraged a lot of conversation and collaboration on this topic to make sure everything is appropriately considered. Overall, he feels that we need to have high quality services available to Township residents, and not rely on other areas to provide those services to Bath Township residents when a matter of minutes makes the difference between life and death. The Township has kicked the can down the road, when additional revenue from levies was needed 15-19 years ago. The issues must be addressed now.

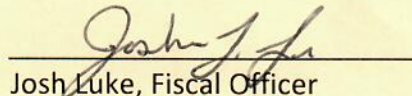
Several other brief general comments were made from those in attendance, expressing the points that the Township has received great value for what they've paid for over the years, and commended the Fire Department for doing so much over the years to train, and research and apply for grant funding. Without this extra work and grant awards received over the years, the Fire Department would not be where it is today.

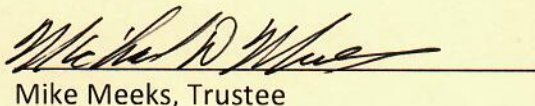
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bath Township will be held **September 19th, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m.** in the Township Boardroom.

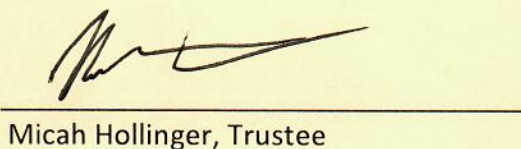
The next scheduled special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bath Township to discuss levies on the ballot will be held on **October 10th, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m.** in the Township Boardroom.

Being of no further business, Mr. Baxter moved, and Mr. Hollinger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.


Brad Baxter, Chairman


Josh Luke, Fiscal Officer


Mike Meeks, Trustee


Micah Hollinger, Trustee