

Charter Township of Breitung

Board of Trustees

Special Meeting Minutes: BUDGET - VISION

Monday, October 30, 2023 5:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Olson at: 5:00 pm

Roll Call: Present: Supervisor Olson, Trustee Wales (remote), Trustee Rochon, Trustee Taff, Trustee Peterson in at 5:13. **Absent:** Clerk Larson, Treasurer Taylor, both excused

Also Present: Superintendent Steve Mulka

Pledge to the Flag

Public Comment – None.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by: Trustee Taff, **seconded** by: Trustee Rochon to approve the October 30, 2023, Special Meeting Agenda as presented. **Vote: Unanimous, Motion carried.**

Discussion Notes:

- The accountant job description was discussed. The current description was taken from Townships of our size and larger where the Township Superintendent or Manager has general supervision, and direct supervision by the Clerk or a designee.

Discussion Notes:

- The current match of up to 4% towards the MERS retirement fund was reviewed for a possible adjustment to 5%. Other entities were discussed as having a 12% match or more. The other portion of the Township's benefit package was discussed (the defined benefit portion) which does not require employee contribution. The average cost per year over a 20-year period per employee would be less than \$3,000 dollars. Direction was given to get a cost number from payroll and MERS for what it would cost to increase both the match and fixed pension schedules by 1%. Not everyone participates in the match and some contribute more than 4% which skews information in the total MERS payments.
- Wages were discussed in relation to the CPI, and whether the township would provide some offset to the 2.5% increase in the employee contribution to the Health Care premium. Superintendent Mulka was to verify the current percentage level. Mulka stated that municipality must annually opt out by resolution if below 20%. This gives the municipality regular evaluation of budgetary costs. This was enacted by the State to use employee wages to offset local budget shortfalls when the State reduced Statutory revenue sharing dollars, allowing the State to balance their budget. Mulka stated that some municipalities have implemented annual lump sums to offset the reduction in pay. The Township has been opting out, raising contributions 2.5% at a time to allow this transition, and approving pay increases by rounding up the CPI to partially offset the reduction in take home pay. Depending on the size of the employee's family, each 2.5% increase reduces the average take-home pay by plus or minus 1.6%.

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- Items also discussed about employee benefits and wages. From Sept 2022 to Sept 2023; the cost of living was 3.7 percent including fuels and food, without food and fuel it is over 4% (due to recent fuel price drop). The CPI usually trends up at the end of the year. A breakdown of current Benefits and wages, as well as the latest CPI after the November 10th release by the Department of Labor will be provided.
- Other items pertinent to the budget were: set Road funding for 2024 at \$325,000.

Board Discretionary Time:

- Trustee Peterson brought up a concern of accountability when stopping in and persons are not found to be in the office. Superintendent Mulka relayed to the Board that there had not been any accountability issues. Scheduled meetings, fieldwork, and days off are on the office calendar. If someone is out for a short while (responding to unscheduled requests etc.) either the assessing clerk or the utility clerk would be made aware. They also have everyone's cell numbers (they may be elsewhere in the building or across the street and can be called).

Adjournment: Motion by: Trustee Peterson, **Seconded** by Trustee Wales to adjourn the 10/30/2023 Special Meeting. **Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.** Written notes were taken by Superintendent Mulka in Clerk Larson's absence.

The meeting was declared adjourned by Supervisor Olson at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Reviewed and Approved by,

Steve Mulka
Township Superintendent

Denny Olson
Breitung Township Supervisor