**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**January 26, 2021**

The special meeting started at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26th. In attendance were Trustees Homer-Miller, Wesemeyer, and Weigel along with Fiscal Officer Amy Richards. Fire department attendees included Bob Richards, Tim Adams, and Chris Sukel

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss road department funding as well as the status of staffing the fire department.

Discussion was had on the current road levy. It is a 1-mil levy that was first placed on the ballot in May 1989. There has never been an increase in this levy. Amy explained that if we do a replacement levy, we would lose the State credits/rollbacks, but it could be beneficial to do so because the levy is based on 1989 property values. In reality, residents are not really paying 1 mil. Listed below are some upcoming road department expenses for the next 5 years along with their estimated costs (if known):

* One-ton truck $20,000-$30,000
* Snowplow truck $180,000-$200,000
* Mini excavator $65,000
* Trailer $10,000
* Loader $20,000-$30,000
* Garage expansion – no cost yet until we met with the architect &/or contractor(s)
* Backhoe $100,000
* Road side mower – no cost estimate until decide the type of roadside mower

These expenses are above and beyond maintaining the roads. The township has always done well receiving grants/loans from OPWC, but we are not sure how much funding will be available in the future to help maintain township roads.

Amy will ask the prosecutor’s office for resolutions to have for our next meeting for a replacement levy at 1 mil, a renewal levy of 1 mil with .5-mil increase, and a renewal levy of 1 mil with a 1-mil increase.

Discussion moved on to the status of staffing the fire department. Christie provided spreadsheets for several area townships and what they pay their fire and EMS personnel and if they staff. Most of the surrounding townships are staffing – some staff during the day Mondays through Fridays while others staff 24/7/365. We have been relying on surrounding departments for mutual aid, but their communities and call volumes are increasing as well. We cannot rely on mutual aid. It recently took over 20 minutes for mutual aid to arrive for a call that none of our members were able to get to; a train delayed the mutual aid department. Using the pay scale from a staffed township, Bob and Tim will estimate what it would have cost if we staffed our department weekdays in 2020. That will help us understand the financial impact and next steps.

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., which was seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210126-01**

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 **Trustee Weigel, Chairperson Amy Richards, Fiscal Officer**