

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 WORK SESSION**

Supervisor Stumbo called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30PM. in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Stumbo, Clerk Heather Jarrell Roe, and Treasurer Eldridge
Trustees: Gloria Peterson, Debbie Swanson, Jimmie Wilson and John Newman

Members Absent: none

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

**1. 2022 DRAFT BUDGET REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO
.....JAVONNA NEEL**

Supervisor Stumbo stated that the Budget is now being done in BS&A software and that Javonna Neel, Accounting Director and John Hines, Deputy Supervisor helped to prepare the draft budget that will be presented tonight.

• FUND 249 – BUILDING

Javonna Neel stated the ending fund balance for 2020 was \$1,436,663.00. She said in 2021 when we did our budget, we needed to take \$113,704.00 from the fund balance in order to make the operations budget balance. She said for the 2021 budget the expected fund balance will be \$1,322,949.00. Ms. Neel stated as they are looking into the 2022 operating budget, it shows that we will need to take \$177,575.00 from the fund balance. She said our projected ending fund balance for 2022 would be \$1,145,374.00. Javonna Neel explained the revenues and expenditures.

Karen Wallin, Human Resources Director shared that our health care rate went down -4.96 for 2022.

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Javonna Neel explained new positions that were added into the building fund.

- **FUND 266 – LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Javonna Neel stated the ending fund balance for 2020 was \$3,992,154.00, the budgeted amount needed for 2021 was \$27,597.00 which made the budgeted fund balance for 2021 out to be \$3,964,557.00. She said going into 2022 we needed to ask for \$80,544.00 which will make the budgeted fund balance ending in 2022, \$3,884,013.00.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that in 2018 the Board authorized to hire three additional police service units and they have yet to be hired. She said that is why there is a large fund balance. She said we still budget for the extra police service units in hopes that they will be able to fill those position soon.

Javonna Neel reviewed the Ordinance Department budget. She said it includes the new position of Director of Community Compliance where 75% of their salary is paid through this department. She said 37.5% of the Executive Coordinators' salary is also paid through this department.

- **FUND 287- NUISANCE ABATEMENT**

Javonna Neel stated this is a fund where we have blight, noxious weeds, board ups within the Township and we hire contractors to take care of these problems. She said the fund balance for 2022 is projected at \$24,683.00.

- **FUND 597- COMPOST**

Javonna Neel stated is fund is an enterprise fund because it does make a profit. She said the unrestricted fund balance for 2021 was \$706,510.00. She said for 2022 we asked for \$221,199.00 from the unrestricted fund balance leaving \$485,311.00. She said as an enterprise fund this is doing very well and we track revenues and expenditures like a business.

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- **FUND 250 – LDFA**

Javonna Neel states this is the Local Development Finance Authority Fund. She said this fund allows the use of a tax increment financing to fund the public infrastructure improvements. There is not enough revenue to pay for the bonds, therefore the general fund will have to pay the shortage.

- **FUND 398 – DEBT 2006 BOND**

Javonna Neel states this is our general obligation debt bond fund. She said the bond was purchased in 2006 for \$3.2 million and it will mature in 2029. She said at the end of 2020 the balance will be 1,695,000.00.

2. BARRIER BUSTERS PRESENTATION.....MOONSON ENINSCHÉ

Moonson Eninsche, Washtenaw County Human Services Supervisor, stated that Barrier Busters is celebrating its' 20th anniversary with over 100 social services agencies committed to improving services for clients who need assistance in various areas such as food assistance or utility assistance. He explained all the assistance they provide. Mr. Eninsche stated they receive much of their funding through donations from agencies and municipalities. He said they receive some funding from the federal government.

Mr. Eninsche answered various questions from the Board.

Teresa Gillotti, Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development, stated they are shifting to a new human services partnership which will be focusing on addressing issues around poverty, racism and trauma. She said they will have three different funding areas

- 1) safety net support (emergency food assistance, child care and homelessness which will be contracts with service providers)
- 2) mini grants to help support new ideas and initiative from community groups or established providers
- 3) high impact fund where we are looking for some real change in condition that will be supporting changes in the lives of our residents.

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She said the network that Barrier Busters is in would likely include those future grantees and many other community partners.

Board members discussed the inequalities for services in Ypsilanti Township as it relates to the other areas receiving services in Washtenaw County.

Ms. Gillotti stated they are dealing with decades of challenges. She said they have historical land use patterns that are racist and exclusionary with the current set up in Washtenaw County. She said they need to look at long range strategies to make changes in these decade old barriers so we can have positive outcomes. She said what they have talked about tonight all fit together but she understands it is not enough. She said Barrier Busters is about emergency assistance. Ms. Gillotti stated that the new human services that she talked about to replace coordinating funding, the amount of funding that was in there was about 4 or 5 million a year and still won't be enough to address all these problems we are talking about county wide even if we are looking at focusing much more on poverty, racism, and trauma. She said with the housing practices we are seeing some progress but people are now being priced out of the county completely. She said we lost over 900 units of affordable housing, county wide in the last four years. She said she appreciates the City of Ann Arbor passing the mileage for Affordable Housing so they are committed to have affordable housing and have money to do it. She said it takes between three to five years to establish an affordable housing development. Ms. Gillotti stated this will take time but if we are not making progress each year that would be a problem. She said we are thankful for the programs that provide rental assistance. She said we want to get the word out to as many people as possible about that rental assistance. Ms. Gillotti stated it can go for twelve to fifteen months of support for rent and will also help with some utility and internet costs. She said it can pay for back rent but it can also be paying forward which can help with housing stability over the next year or two.

Supervisor Stumbo talked about the inequity that 48197 and 48198 has always felt in Washtenaw County. She said it is an embarrassment that Washtenaw County is the 8th most segregated County economically in the United States. She said just recently when Washtenaw County spent the first 15 million of the funds that were

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used for broadband expansion was spent in the Western part of Washtenaw County. She said we know we need broadband but did the County look through the equity lens before they spent that 15 million dollars? She said Ypsilanti Township was not even considered in that discussion. She said that is an infrastructure change that will change the west side of the County. Supervisor Stumbo said that we need infrastructure investment on the eastern side of the County but that was never considered to do that for our residents. She said Barrier Busters is a good program and she is glad that our residents are receiving services through your program. She said she was told that regarding the broadband, 140 houses in Ypsilanti Township will get it. She said she is glad for the 140 houses but our residents deserve and need more.

Ms. Gillotti stated she would speak to Washtenaw County about the conversation tonight.

Trustee Swanson stated we are grateful for the emergency support because of Covid. She said because the inequity has been unearthed there is very pressing urgency on our part to try and stop how we have been treated in Washtenaw County. She said it is not that we don't want more people in need to live in Ypsilanti Township but we want to take care of the people who are currently living in Ypsilanti Township. She said when poverty is concentrated in a certain area that is why more services are needed are needed in that area. She said we want all our people to do well and have a high quality of life and it is needed now, not the next time. She said generations of our residents have been waiting for a long time and that is why the time is now to do something to change this history of repeating itself.

Clerk Jarrell Roe stated our residents are worthy to be treated equally throughout the County. She said as a lifelong resident of Ypsilanti Township she has felt this her whole life. She said it is very hurtful to be considered a burden to Washtenaw County. She said she has heard from many who have come before her of the constant struggle in Ypsilanti Township to get resources here that our residents need and deserve.

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Ms. Gillotti stated she was sorry she couldn't speak on the bigger things that have been mentioned but she will pass it along to the County Officials. She said she encouraged the Board to meet with the County Commissioners to discuss what the Township would want moving forward for the residents in Ypsilanti Township.

Supervisor Stumbo said that Gault Village has been broken into again and asked the board of trustees to consider adding an item to the Agenda tonight in order to properly secure it. The board members all agreed to add it to the agenda.

Attorney Winters stated they will put all the costs that the Township has paid out for the constant cleaning up of the shopping center by putting a lien on the property. He said that by doing this, if the shopping center is sold, the Township could re-coup the money they have spent trying to keep it safe.

The Work Session meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**