

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING**

December 19, 2023

4:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Cupples called the workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 4:00 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Ethan Styche – Absent
Tim Young – Present
Dawnlee Vaughn – Present
MaryAnn Cupples – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq. – Present
via phone

STAFF

Kate Diersen, Solicitor ----- Absent
Travis Stanczyk, Engineer – Absent
Craig Campbell, Police Chief – Absent
Bob Caun, Planning Director – Absent
Jeff Hinds, Finance Director – Absent
Tom Plietz – Bldg/Fire Codes – Absent
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Absent
Rob Shazer, Parks Director – Absent
George Macino, Twp. Mgr. – Present
Dana Slizik, Asst. Twp. Mgr. – Present
Valerie Salla, Twp. Secretary – Absent
Janet Wank, Admin. Assistant – Present

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No Executive Session was held.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider action to approve the 2024 Township Budgets for the General Fund, Capital Fund and the Sewer Fund.

Commissioner Young stated that he being on the safety committee, he feels very good about this budget. We are planning to buy six (6) new vehicles and cameras for the police. For the fire departments, two (2) years ago, we gave each of the three (3) fire departments .1 mill which was around \$100,000.00 plus. In January, the Commissioners talked about giving an extra \$10,000.00

for the extra employees to be at the fire departments. Last year in January and February, Chief Wauthier approached the Commissioners requesting another \$10,000.00. We then gave all three (3) fire departments around \$130,000.00.

Commissioner Young then questioned if this was the plan this year to give all three (3) fire departments the .1 mill, 10 and 10.

Commissioner Cupples stated the one \$10,000.00 was a three (3) year deal. Commissioner Styche was still alive and Chief Wauthier and Mark Lewis came to a meeting saying they were shortchanged three (3) years in a row, they only got \$90,000.00 and should have gotten \$100,000.00. We had a meeting and committed to three (3) years. She thought this was the third year but was not sure. They would have to talk to the Finance Director.

Commissioner Young stated if the third year was last year, then we give the .1 mill and the \$10,000.00 once. If this is the third year, then we give the .1 mill plus the \$10,000.00 and the \$10,000.00. He was unsure if this was the second or third year.

Commissioner Cupples stated the Board is going to meet with the three (3) chiefs and the decision will be made at that time what is given.

Commissioner Young questioned if this will be voted on tonight.

Commissioner Cupples stated no, not tonight.

Commissioner Young stated there are also questions on the EMS. They were supposed to get an audit and then the Township was to give them \$40,000.00 especially if they showed a loss. The audit was done and turned in and then it got confused with the Township auditors and it got delayed. He thought they made money that year but this past year, about two (2) months ago, he and Mrs. Slizik met with the EMS and this year they lost a significant amount of money. The \$40,000.00 is indicated in this year in the budget. Are we going to give the \$40,000.00 this year, 2024, to the EMS or are we going to play games with them again?

Commissioner Cupples stated to Commissioner Young, she didn't know if it was games but, she did say the Board always said we would do our audit from Turnley. At the moment, we are looking for a new auditor. Once we get a new auditor, we will do an audit and if it is determined that they need the money, we will give it to them. She did not recall getting an audit from our financial person. She still hopes to give them the money but, we need to follow the plan we have in place which was our auditor would audit their books. She has no intention of not honoring it, but...

Commissioner Young stated it has been three (3) years.

Commissioner Vaughn questioned if they have to prove there is a deficit.

Commissioner Cupples stated that was correct and by our auditors. We can change the stipulations but that is what the plan was three (3) years ago and back then she was just an appointed Commissioner.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve the 2024 Township Budgets for the General Fund, Capital Fund and the Sewer Fund. By a 3 to 1 vote, the motion passed. Commissioner Young was opposed.

2. Consider action on Resolution 121923-01; A Resolution fixing the tax rate for the year 2024.

Commissioner Young stated he felt the 2024 Budget was in good shape and there was nothing to worry about. He does worry about things going on in the surrounding communities, but Collier is in good shape.

Motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve Resolution 121923-01 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

3. Consider action on Resolution 121923-02; A Resolution to set the sewage usage rate of \$17.66 per thousand gallons of water usage and an account service fee of \$8.64 per month.

Commissioner Cupples stated this is a rate the Township cannot control.

Commissioner Vaughn questioned how much it went up and what was it before.

Mr. Macino stated he did not have the information with him, but it went up significantly. The Alcosan rate went up. He can get the information to the Board.

Commissioner Young stated the Township does not control this. Alcosan rates went up and there is nothing the Township can do.

Motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve Resolution 121923-02 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

4. Consider action on resolution 121923-03; a Resolution to establish a fee schedule for residential solid waste collection.

Commissioner Cupples stated the surrounding communities are struggling with this.

Commissioner Young stated he thought it was a good idea and would rather do a little bit this year and next year. We are good for four (4) years but, with what is going on, he thought it was better to have a little bit of a tax now to prepare for what may occur in three (3) to four (4) years.

Commissioner Cupples stated the cost goes up every year and when do we make this decision?

Mr. Macino stated the amount is in the Resolution which is \$10.00 per month per household. This will be submitted to Jordan Tax Services and they will bill every household that is on our list. We have 3815 stops. Everyone will get billed \$120.00 and the billing will go out in July. If you have a mortgage and you escrow, the mortgage carrier will be billed the \$120.00. This is a fee for solid waste collection and shows up as a separate line item.

Commissioner Young stated that in the future, he would prefer it to be a real estate tax rather than a flat tax.

Commissioner Cupples suggested that a bill goes out in January and people have the right to pay for the whole thing in the beginning or pay it quarterly. This may help the residents.

Mr. Macino stated that if the Board approves this, he will discuss the options with Jordan Tax Services on how the residents could be billed.

Commissioner Young stated we can revisit this in November of 2024.

Commissioner Cupples stated she thought about it and agrees with Commissioner Young that a flat fee is better than a tax.

Motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve Resolution 121923-03 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

IV. Account Transfers:

- Approval of the transfer of \$16,000.00 from the General Fund Account to the Capital Fund Checking Account.

Motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to approve the transfer of money as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

VI. Approval of General, Capital and Sewer Fund Operating Account items:

- Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested December 12, 2023, to December 20, 2023:
- General Fund in the amount of \$59,009.07,
- Capital Fund in the amount of \$15,920.59, and
- Sewer Fund in the amount of \$283.69.

Motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to approve the General, Capital and Sewer Fund Account items as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughn, seconded by Commissioner Young; to adjourn the special meeting at 4:13p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

Wayne M. Chiurazzi, President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary