

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF PIKE TOWNSHIP, MARION  
COUNTY, INDIANA**

**September 16, 2019**

**Attendance:** Marcia Lomax, Steve Anderson, Claudette Peterson, and David Willis. **Present:** Annette Johnson. **Absent:** Peggy Simmons.

- 1) **Approval of August 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes.** No substantive changes were proposed by the Board. Steve Anderson moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Marcia Lomax. Motion carried without opposition.
- 2) **Budget Presentation**

- a. Township Assistance Budget (840) – Deputy Trustee presented the budget for the Township Assistance fund, which includes two sub-funds: (1) 840.1 – Township Assistance Administration; and, (2) 840.2 – Township Assistance – Direct Relief.

Deputy Trustee explained that the Salary & Wages line has been historically inflated, which over time has resulted in the Township sitting on a large cash balance. The Salary & Wages for 2020 reflects Trustee Johnson’s desire to have a more precise budget, without excessive padding.

Ms. Peterson asked how much padding was built into previous budgets. Deputy Trustee wasn’t sure of an exact amount, but explained that each year the Township had a surplus of well over \$100,000, which over time, adds up.

Deputy Trustee also explained this is one of the reasons the General Assembly wants to eliminate Township Government, because there are about 90 Townships who are sitting on large cash balances. The new law mandating a Capital Improvement Plan for Townships with excess balances is how the General Assembly is responding to the Townships with large cash balances. It wants to know what the Townships plan on doing with the excess funds they’ve been sitting on.

Sub-Fund 840.1 - The Salary & Wages line for Fund 840.1 accounts for three caseworkers and an intake/receptionist person.

Insurance costs have been historically underfunded for the Township Assistance Fund. The projected healthcare costs for all Township employees in 2020 is as follows:

- Health/dental = \$23,100.36/year
- Vision = \$180/year
- Life Insurance = \$44/year
- ACA Fee = \$30/year

Deputy Trustee explained that longevity is awarded to civilian township employees with 4+ years of service. There are currently two caseworkers who receive longevity.

Social security is calculated by taking 7.65% of the total salary cost.

Civilian PERF is calculated by taking 14.20% of the total salary cost.

Additional expenses for Township Administration include printing, postage, forms, translators, and training opportunities provided by the Indiana Township Association.

Sub Fund 840.2 – Direct Relief accounts for funds that go directly to Pike Residents for assistance. Assistance can cover prescriptions, burials, ambulance services, shelter, public utilities, food, clothing, and transportation.

- b. Township General Fund (101) – Similar to the Township Assistance Fund, the General Fund has two sub-funds: (1) 101.1 – Township General, which covers the Trustee, Deputy Trustee, Part-Time Building Security, and Part Time Community Outreach; (2) 101.2 is the Court’s budget and includes the Judge and his staff of six.

Trustee Johnson increased the wages of the Court staff to ensure no Township employee makes less than \$15/hr.

Additional expenses covered by the Township Fund include the following:

- Printing: Posting public notices in paper, Safeguard Business Solutions (checks, envelopes, etc.)
- Stationary and Office Supplies: Office360
- Operating Supplies: Office360, water machine, FedEx (business cards), flag, copy machine rental, newspaper subscriptions, ProShred, Postage, American Stamp & Mark, Lexis Nexis (legal books), cleaning company (Building Service Partners)
- Professional Services: Buschmann, Sipes, BlackPearl, Hoosiers for Justice, Ayrow Studios (photograph), Civic Point (lobbying), paying for pro temp when Judge is away from the office.
- Travel Expenses: ITA Legislative Conference, Judge’s conference, etc.
- Official Bonds: Trustee has to be bonded. Cost for 2019 was \$1,800.
- Utility Services: IPL, Citizens, Marion Co. Stormwater Fee.
- Repairs and Maintenance: Landscaping at Gov’t Center, Termite/pest control, Rays Trash Service, J.B. Heating and Cooling, etc.
- Office Rental: AT&T (alarm and phone), phones for Court, Sonitrol.
- Bank Analysis: Bank fees
- Care of Cemeteries: Tree removal, stormwater fee for cemeteries.
- Dues and Subscriptions: ITA, Kiwanis, Indiana Judges Association, etc.

- c. Fire Fund (1111) – Chief Borel presented the operating budget for the fire department and answered questions from the Board. Please refer to 2020 Proposed Budget for breakdown of budget.

Mr. Anderson asked how much was given for holiday pay. Chief Borel responded that holiday pay is around \$104/per day.

Mr. Willis asked about the decrease in rid out pay, which is attributable to less overtime.

Mr. Willis also asked about the decrease in technical pay, which is attributable to the elimination of the dive program.

Mr. Anderson asked whether any funds were set aside for training opportunities. Chief Borel explained that the training budget is under Section 3 and \$157,000 has been allocated for that purpose.

- d. Fire Cumulative Fund (1190) – Chief Borel presented cumulative fund budget, which is for capital improvements. The money in this fund will pay for new engines, ladders, building improvements, station furniture, training equipment, etc.

Mr. Willis asked if everything was paid for the new station. Chief Borel explained that final invoices are still coming in.

- 3) **Public Comment** – Mr. Willis opened the floor for public comment on the budget. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public comment section was then closed.

4) **Additional Comments**

- a. Baby Box - The Board members asked for an update on the Babybox. Mr. Buschmann has taken over communicating with SHBB's attorney and briefly provided some background related to the acquisition of the Babybox.
- b. ITA Conference – Ms. Peterson asked to attend the conference. Trustee Johnson encouraged her to register and the Township would reimburse her for those costs.

Meeting Adjourned.

Board Secretary: Maria Lomeny

Attested by: Annette M. Johnson