

Richland Village Council  
8985 Gull Road  
Special Meeting  
February 29, 2016

As amended by council - JWH

**Present:** President Dave Greve, President Pro Tem Gail ~~Koppertz~~Koporetz, Trustees Virginia Gross, Kim Lewis, Bob Prentice, John Smith, Kevin Foust, Treasurer Terry Edds

**Absent:** Clerk Jacqueline W. Holewa

The meeting was called to order in the Richland Community Hall by President Dave Greve at 7:00 pm. Pledge of allegiance was led by President Greve.

President assigned Kim Lewis to take minutes in the absence of Clerk Holewa. Trustee Lewis took roll call.

No guests to acknowledge.

Added revision of agenda to include the revision of the current budget per request of Treasurer Terry Edds.

**Public comments:**

**Roger Mejeur:** Question for Terry Edds. The settlement is complete for \$69,000 with \$40,000 and \$17,300 approx. thru Nov and additional charge to village of Michael Scotts wages in the Clerk's absence. Question: Can the village fund items through the end of year? Question: How are the dollars reflected in the budget? Question: Need written apology to Wanda and the village for misuse of funds. President Greve answered by saying the matter was still in litigation and will be answered when settlement is complete.

**Doug Penny:** Appreciated the open meeting with budget. We should see the budget before as this is a democracy. A small group of people is fascism. Should break down budget by department such as community relations, vehicles, and same with workman's comp. Salaries broken down to full time and part time and reserves. DPW should be involved with their dept. Flowers should be community relations. General admin should be covered under other. Trees should be a part of community relations. Should we have planning and zoning stop getting paid too? Street lights under gen admin.

**Virginia Mejeur:** ~~Appointed~~ Elected Clerk and Treasurer ends in Nov. Temp \$2000 for Treasurer for ~~4-3~~ months and clerk medical insurance. Need to add training for new people vice clerk and treasurer. If I end up on this board you have complications.

**Jody:** \$11,500 budgeted for legal at \$160 per hour if atny needed to be present Nov/Dec/Jan \$7041. This is half of the budget. \$2489 for Attny Straub, \$1320 village DPW, \$430 G ~~Koppertz~~ Koporetz, \$280 tree ordinance, \$200 issue with Dave, \$2321 attending Village meeting. Proposed atny attending only as needed so we don't go over \$15,000.

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**Tatty Hodge:** Benefits for employees addressed to John as he is the most interested. No company in the state of MI pays health insurance. 401K are gone out the window. Gail did research in MI and outside and our police officers benefits are not really as good as others. Tatty stated that this is outrageous for what ~~there they~~ are doing. DPW/~~Treasurer~~ Treasurer/Clerk all need the same benefits. Don't throw away the benefits. DPW in 2 snows has ruined all the lawns in Richland, Dave has people supervise. Tatty asked if the DPW called Dave to tell them where they were? Tatty stated that we have DPW but where does the money come from? Nice looking budget if you pay for fake or real employees. Tatty also asked why the Village has a liquor license, which seems to her to be a waste of money.

**Donna Rolstadt:** Our truck was seen on Foxwood why? Where is your supervision?

**End of public comments.**

**Public Hearing for 2016-2017 Proposed budget:**

Terry stated that the 9.5% millage is the same as years past. Terry responded to public question regarding assessed values. Values are assessed by the Township, and will be available to the Village sometime late May or June. Until then we estimate taxes from the previous year's values.

Gail asked about line items. Knowing that the auditors moved line item numbers around in previous years, how much can we change the categories that we currently have, as Doug Penny suggested? Terry stated that the State of MI has categories set for villages that we cannot change, but Terry will ask the auditor. The categories that are not as required are those such as the Reindeer. Most things under public service can't be administrative cost. Terry will get us an answer.

There were a few changes during the budget workshop on February 8th, but the budget we are reviewing tonight includes those changes and has been posted to the web site 15 days. John Smith stated that the budget was also available at the Clerk's office for 15 days.

Public asked about what ACT 51 reserves are and how they are used. Terry stated they are revenue from the state, to be used for Major and Local streets. We can use 25% Major street monies toward local street repairs.

Tatty Hodge asked if Terry ever considered summary budget like Richland Twp uses with detail? Terry explained that is what he does with our summary being the first few pages and the detail is in the end.

Kevin took an action to work with Terry on how to have the spreadsheet drop down the details to ensure summary matches detail.

Tatty Hodge asked if we still have the Silverado why do we not pay it off since we spend \$800 per month on interest? Terry explained that we pay \$800 per year. Terry did not know the actual pay off.

Public asked about fire hydrant on Spruce Lane. Bob Prentice talked about the legal issue with a home owner needing to comply with legal regulation and ended up with an assessment being paid off.

Public asked if the council considered getting other folks to sponsor the flower pots. Kim explained that she will address that later in the agenda.

Tatty Hodge asked about the money going to Wanda. Do we have enough money until summer tax? Terry stated that we are getting low, but not going under. Expenses need to get lower or taxes raised. It has been downhill for the last 4 years. Next year no worry, but the out years need a raise. Tatty fears that there is funny money in the \$2000. Temp line for treasurer and clerk hours will be hire during current council. Be aware of this council on Nov 5. How will council do this? Dave answered we cut money using temp clerk \$15per hour use the numbers for calculation. Temp for \$2000 is from the Village of Augusta using a service for 3 months. Clerk data is \$15 and 24 hours 9:00-3:00 DPW does not get benefits.

Dave wanted to express from the council our condolences to the families of the Kalamazoo shootings. Off record as President-Citizen Greve stated that the Richland Police dept was first to respond on the night of the Kalamazoo shooting. We need these eyes and ears.

Tatty Hodge stated look at how Parchment does it.

Feb 8 was the budget workshop and we discussed this budget with the public and posted the budget.

Gail responded that we could cut further by cutting out the reindeer, flowers, sidewalk shoveling. But it is it the right thing to do? Citizen at the meeting responded they would like us to stop doing sidewalks. This is a safety issue and infrastructure. Police and roads are the council's business. Businesses had paid for pots at one time. Tatty Hodge stated to get rid of the pots and be fiscally responsible. Tatty Hodge said all we did was raise our revenue in gaining more houses.

Dave stated that he personally spent about 30 hours on the budget. He could not increase our officers budget line and they are the lowest paid in the county and he would like us to stop being a training ground.

No more comments:

**Motion was made by Trustee Lewis to pass the 2016-2017 budget as written. Kevin seconded the motion:**

**Roll call Vote:** President Dave Greve-yes, President Pro Tem Gail Koporetz-yes, Trustees Virginia Gross-yes, Kim Lewis- yes, Bob Prentice- yes, John Smith-yes, Kevin Foust- yes. **Motion carried.**

**Revised item Old business amend 2015-2016 budget with:**

Raise Legal fees from \$27,000 to \$51,000

Clerk \$10,500 to \$29,500

Payroll tax for Clerk \$2065 to \$2500

Increase planning and zoning from \$1500 to \$4000

**Motion was made by Trustee Gross to amend 2015-2016 budget to bring it into balance for Audit 2016. Kevin Foust seconded the motion:**

**Discussion Gail asked what was the charge for planning and zoning. Bob Prentice explained that it was to published changes in the newspaper. Expenses have been paid.**

**Roll call Vote:** President Dave Greve-yes, President Pro Tem Gail ~~Koporetz~~- Koporetz-yes, Trustees Virginia Gross-yes, Kim Lewis- yes, Bob Prentice- yes, John Smith-yes, Kevin Foust- yes. **Motion carried.**

**New Business Item Flowers Vendor prices:**

Quotes were from Panse at \$1570, Sarter at \$1580 plus \$75 for delivery and Schapps \$1554.

Kim shared that she is working with Jilisa Williams from the Richland Area Community Center. Jilisa is reaching out to the Richland area master gardeners to assist in planting. Her plan is to let Richland council plant the flowers this year and then work to put a perennial in this year and add perennials and perhaps an adopt a pot by the master gardening clubs. While Jilisa gathers the gardeners they will assist in the May 14 planting or rain date May 21 at 8:00 at the Community Hall.

**Trustee Foust made a motion to accept the bid of Schapps of \$1554 for Flowers. John Smith seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

**President Greve requested any comments from Citizens:**

Donna asked about the sign ordinance where Tiburon has a new sign to build your own condo. John said that she can check with the Village Clerk if they have a proper permission for the sign.

Comment and reminders from Council:

Trustee Lewis stated the next Township and Village meeting will be March 10 at 7:00 at the Richland Township meeting office.

Trustee Lewis stated the Tree City USA renewal application was completed and sent to the Arbor Day Foundation Feb 29.

Trustee Lewis reached out to Mr. Patrick English teacher at Gull Lake Elementary to see what date we could host the Arbor day. This is a requirement of being Tree City USA.

**Bob Prentice made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50. John Smith seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

[Respectfully submitted,](#)

[Kim Lewis, Trustee](#)