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**MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JANUARY 28, 2020**  
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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Committee present were: Rik Vonderhaar, Larry Harte, Dan George, and Joe Grossi.

Also, present: Administrator - Mrs. Kim Lapensee, Township Trustees –Mr. Ken Bryant, Phil Beck and Ms. Jodie Leis.

Ms. Leis asked Chief Huber to introduce his guests and asked him if he had anything to share. She stated that they would be going over the budget tonight, but we did not have public safety completed yet.

Chief Huber stated that he wanted to introduce Tom Turner – HR Director, Dan McCarthy – Legal advisor, David Kapor – Symmes TWP Board Member, and he was hoping that Terry Schildmeyer could join them, but he was not available tonight because he had a funeral. Chief Huber made a presentation concerning the levy for the safety services. He showed the committee the effective rates, voted millage, etc. on boards so that they would understand where Symmes Township falls in Hamilton County as far as voted millage vs effective rates in case they get a question.

Mr. Bryant stated that it looks like safety services is about 60 to 65% of our budget and that seemed high to him. Ms. Leis stated that it is like that everywhere. Mr. Bryant stated that he was not sure he wanted to communicate that point to the public.

Chief Huber stated that we are about the lowest across the county when you compare voted village for safety services functions. Mr. Bryant asked where we would fall after the levy passes. Chief Huber stated that the EMS Billing is also up and that the board has been able to push off a higher levy request until now. He stated that the new 2.6 mills levy for safety services will cost a homeowner of a \$100,000 dollar value, \$91.00 per year (each \$100,000). He showed the committee the marketing materials that the Fireman’s Association is going to pay for and donate for the levy campaign. He stated that they will have signs and plan to send out postcards to households in Symmes Township.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Meeder Investment Statements – Mrs. Lapensee stated that she went over the statements from Meeder with the committee. The committee discussed what they want to do with the interest and decided that it should be sent to the township and placed in the bank account for revenue.

December Financial Statement – Mrs. Lapensee stated that she is waiting for the December statement with the final balances. She stated that she hopes to have that information available for the next meeting so that the final budget for 2020 can be wrapped up.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Township Budget FY2020 – Mrs. Lapensee went through the General fund, TIF fund, and all Road Department funds with the committee with the new UAN format that we will be moving to in April. She discussed all the revenue sources and broke down the contracted services for the general fund the best she could without having the Other category broken down in a report.

The committee discussed lowering our costs for televising our public meetings and property taxes (how we can lower them). Mrs. Lapensee stated that we do have a list of properties and we can work on that this year by trying to figure out which ones we need and which ones we don’t and try to sell the ones we do not need to have. She stated that we have to pay property taxes on the parcels that we own but are not being used for a public purpose.

Mrs. Lapensee asked to schedule another finance committee meeting for February to discuss safety services and the parks. She stated that she would look at her schedule tomorrow and email out dates to meet again.

Mr. Grossi stated that he is very concerned about the finances for the township and would like to have a forensic audit done after Ms. Sims leaves office. He stated that he thinks that there could be many things we will find that we don't know about after she leaves office. He stated that he would like to have this audit for peace of mind and so that he is not responsible for anything that took place before he takes office.

Mr. Harte made a motion to support a forensic audit and that the cost should not exceed \$30,000.00. Mr. Vonderhaar seconded the motion. Mr. Grossi stated that he will bring this up at the next trustees meeting to discuss further with the board.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.