HANOVER TOWNSHIP

BOARD MEETING

November 10, 2021

Held at Hanover Township Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor, Jeffery Heath

Board members present: Jeffery Heath, Jason Dorian, Rachel Heath, Steve Keller, Tim Evans

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Supervisor Heath

Public Comment: None.

Announcements: None.

Motion by Dorian, support by Evans, to forgo the reading of the minutes for the October 13, 2021 Board Meeting. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Motion by Evans, support by Dorian to accept the reading of the minutes for the November 2, 2021 Fire Board Meeting as read by Supervisor Heath. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Fire Chief Johnston gave updates on Fire Department calls, trainings, and community involvement.

Motion by Dorian, support by Keller, to accept the Treasurer’s report. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Motion by Dorian, support by Keller to add overdue assessments and penalties to the tax roll.

Roll Call: Evans, yes; Dorian, yes; Keller, yes; J. Heath, yes; R. Heath, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Motion by Evans, support by Keller to amend the budget as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BUDGET ACCOUNT** | **PREVIOUS BUDGET AMOUNT** | **CHANGE AMOUNT** | **AMENDED BUDGET AMOUNT** |
| Zoning Board/Commission | $ 9,800.00 | - $600.00 | $ 9,200.00 |
| Sanitary Landfill | $ 12,000.00 | + $600.00 | $ 12,600.00 |

Roll Call: R. Heath, yes; J. Heath, yes; Evans, yes; Dorian, yes; Keller, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Motion by Dorian, support by Evans, to approve the General Fund, Post-Audit, Round/Farwell, and Fire Department bills as presented for payment.

Roll Call: Dorian, yes; Evans, yes; J. Heath, yes; R. Heath, yes; Keller, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

New Business:

There was discussion regarding the results of the road surveys. The majority of Weeks Road residents reported that they would like their road redone, as well as Cross and Coats Roads.

Motion by Evans, support by Keller to approve JDOT regraveling Weeks Road.

Roll Call: Keller, yes; Dorian, yes; Evans, yes; J. Heath, yes; R. Heath, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Mr. Thomson will be providing the Township Board with a sewer ordinance in regards to hooking sump pumps up to the sewer.

Motion by J. Heath, support by Evans to hire Lane Thayer and rehire Timothy Babchoock to the Hanover Township Fire Department, effective immediately.

Roll Call: J. Heath, yes; Keller, yes; R. Heath, yes; Dorian, yes; Evans, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

The Township needed to update the Poverty Exemption Resolution to meet state guidelines in order to pass the AMAR.

**RESOLUTION #2021-17**

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY**

**ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING OF POVERTY EXEMPTIONS FROM PROPERTY TAXES**

**WHERE AS**, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board; and

**WHERE AS**, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

**WHERE AS**, pursuant to P.A. 390 of 1994, the Township of Hanover, Jackson County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** to be eligible, a person shall do all of the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services shown in Attachment A.
3. File a claim with the Supervisor/Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
4. File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines shown in Attachment B. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
5. Produce a valid driver’s license or other form of identification if requested.
6. Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
7. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** that the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

**ATTACHMENT A**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINE FOR 2020 TAX YEAR** | |
| **Size of Family Unit** | **Household Income** |
| 1 | $12,760 |
| 2 | $17,240 |
| 3 | $21,720 |
| 4 | $26,200 |
| 5 | $30,680 |
| 6 | $35,160 |
| 7 | $39,640 |
| 8 | $44,120 |
| For each additional person | $4,480 |

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Asset Test**

The Township of Hanover’s cumulative value of assets allowed for a Poverty Exemption shall be $10,000. The purpose of an asset test is to determine the resources available: cash, fixed assets or other property that could be converted to cash and used to pay property taxes in the year the poverty exemption is filed. A list of "assets" includes, but is not limited to:

* A second home, land, vehicles.
* Recreational vehicles such as campers, motor-homes, boats, and ATV's.
* Buildings other than the residence.
* Jewelry, antiques, artwork.
* Equipment, other personal property of value.
* Bank accounts, stocks.
* Money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house or car (unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property).
* Withdrawals from bank deposits and borrowed money (including reverse mortgage's).
* Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances and one-time insurance payments.
* Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
* Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and school lunches.

“Assets” do not include the value of the principal residence and do not include the homestead property tax credit as it is not to be considered income for poverty exemptions purposes. Assets exempt from consideration are the homesteaded property with furnishings and one motor vehicle. That motor vehicle shall be valued no greater than $10,000.

The foregoing resolution offered by board member Evans\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Supported by board member Dorian\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted:

Aye: R. Heath, Evans, Dorian, Keller, J. Heath\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nay: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Motion by Evans, support by Dorian to purchase a ballot box in the amount of $1,795, message board in the amount of $462.99, and payment drop box in the amount of $165, plus any applicable tax.

Roll Call: Keller, yes; J. Heath, yes; Evans, yes; R. Heath, yes; Dorian, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Motion by J. Heath, support by Evans to implement a Pilot Squad Program for the Fire Department starting on January 1, 2022. This would provide a $500 participation stipend that would be paid as part of the November payroll to those that meet participation guidelines. \*See attached for details.

Roll Call: Evans, yes; R. Heath, yes; J. Heath, yes; Dorian, yes; Keller, yes. Ayes all. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Supervisor Heath gave updates on the sewer litigation. The County has put the financial agreement between Hanover, Liberty, Leoni, and the County into a resolution.

Fire Chief Johnston requested a clean-up of the Horton Station yard prior to winter. Clerk Heath will contact Mr. Butters.

Treasurer Evans mentioned that the first COVID funds check was received in the mail today.

Treasurer Evans also suggested having time limits on permits, and potential fees.

The Board decided to meet with the attorney in December to discuss steps to move forward with Wild World Zoo.

Public Comment: Mr. Worden asked questions about financing and outsourcing work on the roads in the Township.

Evans moved the meeting to be adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Submitted by:

Rachel L. Heath, Clerk