

A Special Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, May 9, 2016.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilmer at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Kathy Misner, Cyndi Trobeck, and Ryan Wieber. Absent: None. Also present City Manager Beard; Finance Director Storbeck; Police Chief Konkle; and Fire Chief Weber.

1. Mayor Gilmer stated that this meeting is to discuss how the Commission is going to proceed with the budget and the future of the Public Safety Millage. He asked the Commissioners for their opinion. Commissioner Misner commented that she would like to see the necessary budget cuts be in the Public Safety Department (Fire, Police, & Ambulance), without hurting the personnel. She stated that the voters have voiced their opinion loud and clear that they do not support public safety. Commissioner Wieber commented that he thinks the community cares, but is apathetic because they have not felt or seen any cuts. He stated that he preferred to put the Public Safety Millage on the August 2nd ballot and not wait until November. He would like to strive for a balanced budget, but knows that can't happen, but would like to strive for it in the future. Commissioner Trobeck – she commented she agrees with Commissioner Wieber that the Public Safety Millage should be placed on the August 2nd ballot. She also agrees that the cuts should be made in public safety. Commissioner Withee – she stated that she does not think that the public has spoken. She thinks that the public is appreciative of our public safety, but everyone just thought that others would vote so they didn't have to. She commented that if it does not pass next time we will have to make specific cuts, and she doesn't want to lose good people. Mayor Gilmer commented that he wants to see the cuts come one hundred percent out of public safety. He explained the services that the City does not have to provide - such as twenty-four hour police protection and first responders. He stated that he does not know if the budget can be balanced. He stated that it is time to make Mike Bosch the full-time DPW Supervisor. He commented that we lost because of apathy in our community. He stated that he is not afraid to put the Public Safety Millage on the November ballot. Mayor Gilmer commented that when it is time to purchase another fire truck it will have to be done with a bond issue.
2. Manager Beard stated that it was his recommendation to put the Public Safety Millage ballot proposal on the August 2, 2016, ballot. He stated that it is his belief that in order to react to the recent loss, we need to proceed at the next election. He suggested that the Commission be very clear about what will happen if the millage is not passed. At this time, Manager Beard reviewed his recommendations of possible considerations for the 2016-2017 General Fund Budget. Manager Beard also outlined other possible future cuts in public safety if the Public Safety Millage doesn't pass. He stated that the City has a healthy fund balance, but using funds from it each year will deplete it very quickly.
3. The Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding the placement of the Public Safety Millage on a future ballot and the potential cuts in the future and the potential cuts that Manager Beard outlined. Commissioner Trobeck moved to amend the agenda to place Resolution No. 2016-20, a Resolution to approve and submit language for a dedicated Public Safety Millage on the August 2, 2016, ballot, seconded by Commissioner Withee.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

4. A brief discussion continued regarding the Public Safety Millage and the placement on the August 2, 2016, ballot. Commissioner Wieber offered Resolution 2016-20 – a Resolution to approve and submit language for a Dedicated Public Safety Millage, to be placed on the August 2, 2016, ballot, supported by Commissioner Misner.
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.
5. Commissioner Wieber moved to adjust the proposed 2016-2017 Budget to reflect - no Capital Improvements, DPW Supervisor will remain part-time, eliminate the Police Sergeant position as of July 1, 2016, reduce raises from two percent to one percent, remove the Police tasers and rifle from the budget, with the stipulation that if the Public Safety Millage passes on August 2, 2016, the employees will receive an additional one percent raise and the DPW Supervisor will become full-time, seconded by Commissioner Trobeck. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Misner, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED – 8:24 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk