

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP

P.O. Box 276 Glen Arbor, MI 49636

231-334-3539 FAX 231-334-6370

Peter Van Nort, Supervisor

Pam Laureto, Clerk

Lee Houtteman, Treasurer

John Pepler, Trustee

Don Lewis, Trustee

GLFD Public Budget Hearing Minutes

9/12/19

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Van Nort at 7:06 PM in the Glen Lake Fire Department meeting room. In attendance Glen Arbor Township Board Members Peter Van Nort, Don Lewis, John Pepler and Pam Laureto, Empire Township Board Members Carl Noonan, Bob Price, and Micah Deegan, Chief Ferguson, and 4 members of the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The purpose of the meeting was for Glen Lake Fire Department, represented by Chief Bryan Ferguson, to present to the public, in the presence of the Glen Arbor Township and Empire Township Boards, the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Public Comment: None

Glen Arbor Supervisor Van Nort introduced the budget topic. He indicated the proposed 2020-2021 budget has a significant increase over the current 2019-2020 budget. That increase is due to two factors: 1) a new union contract and 2) the GLFD upgrading its maintenance practices and procedures.

Van Nort said the union contract was negotiated by the Supervisor of Empire Township, the Supervisor of Glen Arbor Township and Chief Ferguson with a 3-member panel from the Union. Van Nort said the two factors that led to the contract being what it is today are salary and retirement benefit increases. A study of wages and benefits was done between the GLFD and 7 other fire departments in Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties. As far as salary is concerned the GLFD is the lowest paid department and it is the 2nd lowest with regards to retirement benefits. The Glen Arbor and Empire townships have worked hard to correct the inequality. In putting the new contract package together, the negotiating team did not try to create equality today but rather the contract will bring the GLFD to a level that is equivalent to the other departments by the end of the 3-year contract. If those departments have improvements over the next three years, then the GLFD will still be behind.

Chief Ferguson indicated that he had reviewed the proposed budget with each township board individually. He made the proposed budget and proposed budget notes available for the public. Chief Ferguson reviewed the proposed budget and went over the budget notes giving details of the most significant increases.

Board Comment: Bob Price, Empire Township Treasurer, had a question about wages which was discussed.

Public Comment: Jerry Fleis, who is not a resident of either Glen Arbor or Empire Townships, asked a question about wages.

The Empire Township Supervisor Noonan recommended to the Glen Arbor Township Board that they approve the budget at their September board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Laureto
Township Clerk