

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

The meeting of the Golden Township Election Commission was called to order by the Clerk, Rachel Iteen at 7:13 p.m. in the Golden Township Hall.

Commission present: Rachel Iteen, clerk; Connie Cargill, treasurer; Don Walsworth, supervisor
The clerk read the names of the election inspectors to be appointed for the March 8, 2016, election.

Motion by Mr. Walsworth, supported by Mrs. Cargill to appoint: Rachel Iteen, Clerk; Brenda Draper, Deputy Clerk; Melinda Whitney, Republican; Nancy Peters, Democrat; Pam Tingley, Democrat, as election inspectors for the March 8, 2015, election. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP
FEBRUARY 9, 2016
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Golden Township Board was called to order by the Chairman, Don Walsworth, at 7:30 p.m. in the Golden Township Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Don Walsworth, Connie Cargill, Carl Fuehring, Kevin Ackley, Rachel Iteen.
Also present: Jake Whelpley, Zoning Consultant; and 12 guests.

Don Walsworth, opened the **Public Hearing on the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget** at 7:30 pm. The Treasurer, Connie Cargill, explained the General Fund, Road, Fire, Park, and Silver Lake Trail Budget. Golden Township has a taxable value of approximately \$171,000,000. The budget has been adjusted for the coming re-evaluation in the assessing department. Capital Project Fund was set up as a savings from rental income: Telamon, Cell Tower, etc. The Public Hearing closed at 7:39 pm. The regular meeting convened and continued.

Motion by Mr. Fuehring, supported by Mr. Ackley to approve the minutes of last month's regular board meeting. All yes, the motion carried.

The Treasurer read the Financial Report. The ending balance in the Fund as of January 31, 2016 was as follows: General Fund \$332,358.69; Road fund \$214,410.55; Fire Fund \$3,031.94; Capital Project Fund \$2,920.07; Silver Lake Corridore Construction Fund \$13,036.89.

Motion by Mr. Fuehring, supported by Mr. Ackley the Financial Report was accepted subject to Audit.
Motion by Mr. Ackley, supported by Mrs. Iteen, check numbers 16234 through 16262 in the amount of \$20,163.77. Roll call vote, all yes, the motion carried.

Zoning Report: There were four permits. The Planning Commission appointed a committee of Mike Cook, Ted Hosner, and Jake Whelpley to working on a possible vacation rental ordinance coordinating with Mark Hill of the Health Department on septic regulations.

Park Report: Mrs. Cargill received bids for engineered plans from Tim Hoffert of Moore & Bruggink, Inc. that were quite pricey. She then talked to Dan Gorenflo of Hallack Contracting about the work to be done with the grant money. Engineered plans are required for the grant. Mrs. Cargill will contact some other engineers. Donations of \$1714.00 have been received for the park.

Fire Report: Mr. Ackley stated that there was personal issues at the department and that language is being changed as far as the chief and others being appointed. The by-laws are being changed and will be sent to entities to be approved.

New Business-

Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Ackley, to approve the **General Fund budget by department** and as presented. General Fund: Revenue \$418,860. Appropriations: Township Board \$69,400; Supervisor \$13,250; Clerk \$27,635; Board of Review \$2,500, Treasurer \$41,854; Assessor \$101,954; Elections \$5,900; Building & Grounds \$29,875, Cemetery \$6,750; Police \$12,000, Fire Dept. \$25,000; Street Lighting \$8,000; Zoning \$59,500; Library \$15,000, Debt Service \$18,100, Total Appropriations \$418,860. Park and Recreation Department \$80,600. Fire Dept. \$110,000. Silver Lake Corridore \$12,354. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Golden Township resolves:

SECTION 1. This resolution shall be known as the Golden Township 2016 General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 2. Public Hearing on the Budget – pursuant to MCLA141.412 and .413, notice of a public hearing on the proposed budget was published in a newspaper of general circulation on January 28, 2016 and a public hearing on the proposed budget was held on February 9, 2016.

SECTION 3. The Golden Township Board adopts the 2016-2017 fiscal year budgets for the various funds by department.

SECTION 4. The Golden Township Board shall cause to be levied and collected the general property tax on all real and personal property within the Township upon the current tax roll and allocated mileage of 1.1864 mill township operations; and voter authorized millage of 1.9848 mills for road maintenance and repair, and .4962 mills for fire protection.

SECTION 5. All claims against the Township shall be approved by the Golden Township Board prior to being paid, prepayment will be allowed for Card member Services, Larson's, Frontier, Great Lakes Energy, and Consumers Energy.

SECTION 6. Included in the budget are the following amounts of the salary, hourly and per diem rates for the officials and employees of the Township:

Per Diem – PC and ZBA - \$50; Trustees - \$125.

Supervisor - \$12,450.

Assessor - \$41,054.

Clerk - \$17,635

Deputy Clerk - \$12.75 per hour

Elections - \$11.00 per hour

Treasurer - \$23,454.

Deputy Treasurer - \$13.25 per hour

Zoning - \$23,454.

SECTION 7. Estimated revenues and expenditures for Golden Township for the funds are:

General – \$445,035. Revenue \$436,718. Expense

Perpetual Care - \$1,100 Revenue

Road - \$363,110. Revenue \$300,620. Expense

Fire Fund - \$110,000. Revenue \$106,240 Expense

Park Fund - \$82,500. Revenue \$80,600 Expense

Silver Lake Trail Fund - \$12,354. Revenue \$12,000 Expense

MOTION made by Mr. Ackley, seconded by Mr. Fuehring, to adopt the forgoing resolution and General Appropriations Act. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Ayes: Mr. Walsworth, Mrs. Cargill, Mr. Fuehring, Mr. Ackley, Mrs. Iteen

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted on the 9th day of Feb., 2016.

Signed: _____ Donald Walsworth, Supervisor

Motion by Mr. Ackley, supported by Mr. Fuehring, to approve the **Library Contract** for the amount of Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00). Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Cargill, supported by Mr. Fuehring, to adopt the **Poverty application, federal poverty income level guidelines, and the asset guidelines for 2016**. Roll call vote all yes, the motion carried.

Following are the changes made to the poverty income level and asset guidelines for 2016:

Township of Golden
GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY TAX EXEMPTION

IV. **Income Guidelines**

The income guidelines used by the Board of Review have been established in accordance with P.A. 390 of 1994 and shall be adhered to unless accompanied by special circumstances. In determining qualifications for tax exemption, the Board of Review shall consider every variable on the application, including total household income, the nature and duration of the income stream, the state equalized value of the subject property, the quality and accuracy of the information submitted and any other such evidence as they feel appropriate in making their decision. In general however these guidelines shall assist the Board of Review in their decisions.

Income guide, as adopted annually by Township Board, based on Federal Income Levels provided: STC Bulletin No. 14 of 2015 - Changes For 2016 - dated October 12, 2015

Size of family unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 11,770
2	\$ 15,930
3	\$ 20,090
4	\$ 24,250
5	\$ 28,410
6	\$ 32,570
7	\$ 36,730
8	\$ 40,890
For each additional person	\$4,160

The income guidelines shall include, but are not limited to, the specific income for the person claiming the exemption, and should also include anyone else who is living at the claimant's household. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, "income" includes:

- Money, wages, and salaries before any deductions.
- Net receipts from non-farm self-employment. (These are receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses.)
- Net receipts from non-farm self-employment. (The same provisions as above for self-employment.)
- Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker's compensation, veteran's payments and public assistance.
- Alimony, child support, and military family allotments.
- Private pensions, government pensions, and regular insurance or annuity payments.
- College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships.
- Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

This information taken from STC Bulletin 5 of 2012

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Township of Golden

GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY TAX EXEMPTION

V. Asset Guidelines

As required by P.A. 390 of 1994, all guidelines for poverty exemptions as established by the governing body of the local assessing unit SHALL also include an asset level test. The following assets shall not be considered when applying an asset test to determine qualification for tax exemption.

- i. The value of the applicant's primary residence subject to the exemption request along with any contiguous residential land.
- ii. The value of all personal property, such as furniture and clothing.

Notwithstanding the value of property listed above, in order to be considered for tax exemption under MCL 211.7u, the value of all additional assets **shall not exceed five (5) times the annual household income* of the applicant. Applicant will own one car, all other additional vehicles and recreational vehicles will be included in additional assets as indicated above. Jewelry, artwork and antiques shall be considered assets. A land footprint of more than 3 acres will be considered an asset.**

*Household income as described in Annual Federal Income Levels, as adopted by Township Board.

All asset information, as requested in the Application for Property Tax Exemption must be completed in total. The Board of Review may request additional information and verification of assets if they determine it to be necessary and **may reject** any application if assets are not properly identified.

VI. Summary

In conclusion, the Board of Review and the Township Supervisor by vote has been given exclusive jurisdiction over the granting of property tax relief due to financial hardship. The Board of Review and the Township Supervisor for the Township takes this task seriously and attempts to provide relief to all deserving residents within the Township. **The Board of Review and the Township Supervisor may deny any appeal, and/or regardless of income, and/or if the financial hardship appears to be self-created by the actions of the person or persons making the application.**
The Board of Review reserves the right to modify these guidelines as necessary.

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Public discussion:

-Mike Cook asked if we were still assessed for the Silver Lake Study. Mrs. Cargill stated that it was completed last year.

-A resident asked about the Silver Lake Corridore. Mrs. Cargill explained that it included commercial properties along the bike trail. She also stated that it is assessed until 2024.

-Ted Ferwerda asked about the multiple camper issue on the old Coon Property. Mr. Whelpley said that Mr. Draper was still working on it and had talked to the DNR and Health Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Iteen
Golden Township Clerk