

**Leighton Township Board**

**Budget Workshop**

**January 18, 2023**

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Supervisor Wolbrink at 4:04 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Fennema, Bultsma, Hooker; Bonnema, Wolbrink. Also present: Matt Weston, Travis Masselink.
3. **Minutes:** Previous minutes to be reviewed at next meeting.
4. **Agenda:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve the meeting agenda with the change of removing the announcements section. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **Unfinished Business:** None
7. **New Business:**
  - A. **Review of 2022/2023 Budget:**
    1. **Fire Department:** The Fire Chief and Deputy Chief reviewed the Fire Department 20-year plan and discussed the current number of calls the department is receiving and the level of burn out firefighters are experiencing with the existing call volume. They presented a request and budget details for additional and/or full-time staffing that would alleviate some of the pressure for the call volume as it presently stands. The plan presented to get a handle on our current call numbers would begin with a full-time leadership position to be followed in near future by the hiring of a full time medically trained firefighter. After their presentation, the Fire Department representatives left the meeting.
    2. **Budget Review:** The board reviewed the remainder of the budget. Wage resolutions will be presented at the February 9, 2023 public meeting. The Public Hearing for the Budget will be on March 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to offer Chief Matt Weston the full time chief's position at the salary and benefits detailed in the fire department proposal in order to better uphold the services offered by the fire department at the current call volume. All members voted yes; motion carried.
8. **Public Comment:** No public Comment.
9. Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to adjourn. All members voted yes; motion carried. **Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk