

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
23480 SUMPTER ROAD, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP MINUTES
DECEMBER 9TH, 2025
5:00 P.M.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call:** Bowman, LaPorte, Patterson, Oddy, Rush, Frazier and Honey.
3. **Presentation:** Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Township Budget by Finance Director Campbell.

Note: Finance Director Campbell stated that this is only a budget workshop and no formal budget presentation to be presented yet.

Finance Director Campbell provided copies of the framework for her budget work to the Board regarding the following:

- General Fund
- Fire Fund
- Police Fund

Finance Director Campbell:

- Finance Director Campbell advised that when she budgets, she reviews the past few years and removes any outliers and sees what has traditionally been spent on goods and services. Then projects a couple years forward, factoring some inflation, etc. to then develop a new budget based on those factors and figures.
- Finance Director Campbell states that budgets are basically an educated guess and should be amended frequently.
- Finance Director Campbell notes the Township amends the budget quarterly and that budgets are a projection in a single moment in time.

General Fund:

- Some items that impact the Township expenditures in the general fund significantly are employee health care. We have a significant increase in our premiums (15.6%) coming up in our health care year that begins February 1st, 2026.
- Recently Finance Director Campbell and Township Manager Marten had a meeting with our insurance representative from Acrisure who represents all of our insurance coverage. Our insurance representative went out for bid for additional plans there

were minimal savings that would impact on the coverage for employees in the plans presented. Finance Director Campbell and Township Manager Marten are likely going to recommend the Board to continue with the plan that have. The current plan will continue to have zero impact on our employees. Another consideration in our healthcare costs, that keeps our healthcare costs a little lower is that the insurance bases our premiums on the age of every person covered on our policy.

- Wages for AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees)
(Note: The current contract expires in March 2026)

When you have an impact on wage, that carries an impact on benefits because many of our benefits are based on a percentage of wages.

- FICA (Social Security and Medicare combined) are based on a percentage of wages.
- Pensions are based on a percentage of wages.
- Workers Compensation are based on a percentage of wages.

Fire Fund:

- The Fire Truck that was purchased in 2021 in the amount of \$293,730 will be paid off in 2027.
 - We are making annual payments from the Fire Fund back into the General Fund. Our \$36,247.00 a year that we pay toward this truck that began in 2020 the initial downpayment of \$40,000 occurred in 2021 for this truck.
 - Currently money is transferred from the General Fund royalties to the Fire fund to supplement the Fire Fund. Then when the Fire fund is paying back, we take money back from the Fire Fund move it to the General Fund Royalties. It's essentially moving the funds back and forth between the two fund balances.

Options for funding the newly acquired fire truck (2025):

1. Make annual payments

Currently the Fire Fund cannot support two fire truck payments annually. The payments for the newest fire truck would not begin until the current payments for the 2021 fire truck are paid off in 2027. (The 2025 fire truck payments would then begin in 2028.)

- 8-year pay back \$55,625 annually with the last payment being in 2035.
- 10-year payback \$44,500 annually with the last payment begin in 2037.

2. Millage Proposal - Levy an additional half mil

When the Fire Special Millage was passed/approved by voters in 2018 the millage called for not to exceed 2 mils. Currently, the Township only levies 1.5 mils out of the 2 possible mils. We are levying less than what was approved by voters right now.

Note: This millage expires in 2028.

- Headley Rollback does not have any impact on the fire levy currently because we are under the two mils that we are legally allowed to collect. The Township can collect the full 1.5 mil on the fire levy, if the board so chooses.
 - 1.5 mil equates to \$648,00 a year.
 - 1 mil is approximately \$432,000 a year.
 - Beginning next year, we could levy 2 mils however, that would impact the Headley Rollback. So, the Township could levy 1.9994 mils and not quite the full 2 mils however, that would be an additional \$216,000 in revenue which would be a total of \$864,000 for the Fire Fund each year. This levy could allow for both fire truck payments to be made concurrently until the first fire truck (2021 truck) is paid off in 2027.

3. The Board could approve the cost of the second fire truck to be paid by the royalties' revenue.

- This would allow the fire fund to begin building a fund balance after the 2027 payment ends. Fire would be more likely to afford their next fire truck purchase out of their own fund.

Police Fund:

- The police have two millages right now. The first one is 2.0 mils after the Headley Rollback, it's 1.9994 mils and it brings in about \$863,000 for the police department operations. The additional levy is 1 mil or .9997 after the Headley Rollback and that brings in another \$432,000.

Note: Both of these special millages expire after this year (2025) and should be put before voters again next year (2026) if the board chooses.

ARPA: ARPA will not be apart of the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget first read because all of the money has to be spent by the end of December 2025, which has been. The fund is complete and projects are booked and Township Account Cari Ford is working on some reclassification to get the cash to algin with the books. Some items didn't initially get booked to the correct area when bills were paid and Cari is working to clean that up and conduct a final audit.

Landfill Royalties:

- Royalties from the land fill, currently the Townships revenue from the landfill hosting fees are a little bit higher than last year by about \$29,000 or 2%. This year's budget revenue to be \$2.195 million or 2,195,000 but if we average our monthly revenue so far this year, we're on track to receive about \$160,000 more than that. We'll see how that comes in and make amendments accordingly, if we need to.

Water Fund:

- Currently there is one active bond in the Water Fund.
 - It has a 4% interest rate and will be paid off in 2028.
 - After payoff, residents will no longer see that debt service fee for that particular bond on their utility bills.

Unknown/Future:

- ASFCME Bargaining agreement expires March 31st, 2026, and negotiations are going to occur before then.
 - Historically, there have been 2% increases across the board for this union.

B. Township Board discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Township Budget.

4. **Public Comment:** None.

5. **Adjournment:** Motion by Patterson supported by Frazier to adjourn at 5:40 pm.

Yes: All in favor. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Donald LaPorte, Clerk

Minutes prepared by:

Samantha Herman
Deputy Clerk
Sumpter Township

Samantha Herman, Deputy Clerk

Date

Don LaPorte, Clerk

Date