This was a special meeting held for the purpose of budget preparation and to discuss the 2018 budget and 5-year plan. Trustees Gary Gabram, Justin Madden, and Jim Mueller were present. Also present was Fiscal Officer Charles Walder and Road Superintendent Gene Layne.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M.

ROAD DEPARTMENT: Mr. Walder indicated that the township received an OPWC Acknowledgement Letter for a $350,000 grant for the County Line Road paving project.

Mr. Walder reported that the 1.8 Mill 5-year renewal levy stops collection this year. Although he previously proposed to let this levy expire, he now recommends that the Trustees consider converting this levy into a continuing levy on the next ballot. In doing so, the levy would still be eligible for Rollback from the state, giving residents an 11.8% tax advantage. If a new levy were placed on the ballot instead, the residents would lose the Rollback and would pay a higher amount for the same millage. Mr. Walder suggested that Inside Millage then be adjusted to offset this additional revenue from Roads to the General Fund. Road Superintendent Gene Layne indicated that he is on board with converting the current 5-year levy to a continuing levy as proposed.

Mr. Layne expressed the need for his department to move forward on the fleet schedule. A 2000 Freightliner needs replaced next year. Due to fiscal concerns, the department was previously behind schedule. Mr. Walder indicated that the Road Department was the most fiscally conservative department since 2012, saving over 1 million dollars. Expenditures are drastically down, while responsibilities for this department increased and the number of employees has only increased by half of a person. This department is unique in that it can utilize cost effective measures unlike other departments, such as Mr. Layne's purchase of a used Honda truck for the department rather than a new vehicle, saving over $10,000.00.

Mr. Layne reported that the fuel pumps at the Road Garage need to be replaced and a canopy must be added over the pumps due to recent EPA requirements. The model will be taken from the Geauga County Engineer's Office to ensure correct height requirements.

Mr. Layne was excused at 10:01 A.M. Police Chief Tim Carroll arrived at 10:02 A.M. and after a short recess, the meeting reconvened at 10:05 A.M.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Walder reported that the Police Department needs to focus on a succession plan for the Police Chief as well as to determine how to backfill employees since the lieutenant retired last year. As this is a safety department and is bound by contractual union obligations, it is more difficult to reduce costs. This department's expenditures are heavily weighted from personnel rather than capital equipment, making it difficult to reduce costs without reducing staffing or benefits.

Chief Carroll reported that the department will not be able to sustain life through 2019 at the current staffing level. He indicated that a reduction could be made in staffing to reduce costs, but the department is already operating below optimal staffing levels and this is not recommended.

He proposed that adding another patrolman be considered as it would reduce the need for overtime for the current staff who has been working to fill in the schedule due to the former lieutenant's retirement. In addition, the department requires additional money for the Police Chief's succession. Police Chief Carroll indicated that he wanted to offer another Sergeant's Exam this year to promote a patrolman. Mr. Walder proposed proactively adding additional funding to the department through a levy. He recommended the Trustees consider a 1 Mill Continuing Levy on the next ballot to provide adequate revenue.

ADJOURNMENT: *Mr. Gabram made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Mueller seconded and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Justin Madden, Chairman   Charles Walder, Fiscal Officer

                                       Recorded by: B. Milite