

**Bear Creek Township Special Meeting  
February 7, 2022**

Time: 3:33p.m.

Roll Call: Golding, Urman, Hoffman, Keiser, Radatovich

Others Present: Mitch Brown

2022/23 Budget Discussion

Using the budget and activity from the last two fiscal years (2020-21 and 2021-22), the board went through the budget item by item. The Board budgeted for the following departments: roads, water/sewer, blight, parks and recreation, liquor, street lights, building department, and library.

Computer Services

Radatovich shared the quotes from the other two IT companies and asked if we would like to continue our service with Common Angle or make a switch. The board decided to take it month by month with Common Angle. We will evaluate their service monthly, and if the service slips again, then we will pursue another company.

ARPA Funds

Keiser shared some ideas for the use of our ARPA funds. He suggested that Bear Creek Township contract with Emmet County to have a designated police officer for Bear Creek. This would be a county deputy that would patrol Bear Creek specifically. Keiser suggested that the county and township share the cost of this employee.

Keiser noted that we can use ARPA funds to help pay for the renovations to the Spring Lake Park bathhouse. We have been looking for grant money to help support this project. In addition, perhaps the county would help fund this using their ARPA funds.

Keiser noted that we can also use ARPA money towards infrastructure. If the Atkins Rd project goes forward, they will need to extend the sewer line. In our Master Plan, we show high-density residential down McDougal Rd. If that is our plan for the future, we could help pay to extend the sewer the rest of the way to McDougal, or pay for an upgrade for a larger pipe for future development. In addition, Keiser noted that the sewer line at Fotchman Industrial Park is very old and will need to be upgraded. Another infrastructure-related option for our ARPA funds would be to help with the lift stations we are responsible for. Lift station 8 and 21, we make up 40% of the flow, and therefore are responsible for 40% of the cost for the repairs. We could use ARPA money there and possibly ask the county to contribute.

Keiser shared some information for the possibility of adding street lights for the intersections on the highway, another possible use of our ARPA funds. We could get the intersections at the highway lit for approx. \$2,500.

Keiser noted that MDOT has agreed to add the new light at Pickerel Lake and the highway, on condition that we commit to making a permanent fix to that intersection over the next few years. This is a huge project, but perhaps the county would split the cost with us, or we could use our ARPA funds.

The next budget meeting will be February 16, 2022 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment: 5:22pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Emma Radatovich*

Emma Radatovich, BCT Clerk