

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024**

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Reenders called the special work session budget meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

**Board members present:** Wagenmaker, Larsen, Meeusen, Kieft, Behm, and Reenders  
**Board members absent:**

Also present was Manager Cargo, Assistant Manager Sherwood, Public Services Director Wade, Fire/Rescue Chief Schrader, Captain Schweitzer, Assessing Director Larrison, Finance Director Sandoval.

III. FY2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Pursuant to state law, the Township Superintendent must prepare and forward a budget to the full Board for consideration.

Superintendent Cargo provided an overview of the proposed 2025 Fiscal Year budget which is just over \$22.27 million. Although GHT adopts a single budget resolution each year, the total budget is sixteen (16) separate budgets — one for each of the Township's Funds. With few exceptions, monies from one Fund cannot be transferred to other Funds, unless there is a specific service received.

It was noted that expenditures exceed revenues. However, the FY2025 budget is balanced inasmuch as the difference is taken from the existing fund balances or cash reserves. Moreover, the budget is balanced since the sixteen (16) fund balances or cash reserves will remain positive – totaling about \$15 million at the end of FY2025.

Some of the highlights from the budget include the following:

- ✓ \$1.74 million will be spent to support the operations of the Fire/Rescue Department, which is expected to respond to about 1,550 emergency runs during 2025.
- ✓ \$654k will be spent to supplement the work of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, paying for a portion of five (5) deputies that work exclusively within the Township.
- ✓ \$1.29 million for transportation activities, including:
  - ◆ \$614k for Harbor Transit on-demand bus service.
  - ◆ \$640k to supplement the work of the Road Commission and re-surface certain subdivision streets.
  - ◆ \$36k for three dust control treatments on gravel roads.
- ✓ \$1.25 million for maintenance of the 40 miles of pathways, sidewalks, and boardwalks, including resurfacing the Lakeshore Drive pathway from the Little Pigeon boardwalk to Fillmore Street.
- ✓ \$735k will be allocated to maintain the Township parks.

- ✓ \$203k to maintain and operate the Township's two cemeteries.
- ✓ \$142k for street lighting.
- ✓ \$187k for storm drain maintenance.
- ✓ \$1.89 million to operate the sanitary sewer system including \$318k to treat an estimated 119 million gallons of sewage.
- ✓ \$4.92 million to operate the water distribution system including:
  - ◆ \$893k to purchase 806 million gallons of potable water.
  - ◆ \$1.13 million to complete a water main "loop" along Ferris Street from 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue to just east of Hidden Creek Drive.
  - ◆ \$785k to repair and paint the elevated water tank at 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Street.
- ✓ \$443k for the operation and maintenance of the Township's Information Technology (IT) system.
- ✓ \$33k for so-called OPEB liabilities (*Other Post-Employment Benefits*), which is considered an extremely low payment for a governmental entity.

There were no changes proposed to the FY2025 budget.

The Truth-in-Budgeting public hearing for the FY 2025 budget is scheduled for Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** by Clerk Larsen and seconded by Trustee Wagenmaker to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. **Which motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Laurie Larsen  
Grand Haven Charter Township Clerk



Mark Reenders  
Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor