



Beaver Island  
Michigan

# Supervisor's Lens

Notes to St James Township Board Members from Supervisor Bobbi Welke

September 14, 2022

Volume 9, Number 1

**SJTGC** = St James  
Township  
Governmental Center

**SJTH** = St James  
Township Hall

**PTH** = Peaine  
Township Hall



Wednesday, September  
14 @ 5:30PM @ SJTH

Regular Board  
Meeting

**St James  
Township  
Board**

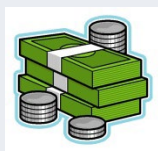
Wednesday, August 21  
@ 11:00AM @ SJTGC

Public Works  
Committee

**PWC**

Wednesday, September  
7 @ 1:00PM @ SJGC

Finance Committee  
Meeting



## Finance and Administration Committee Report:

1. **Monthly Financial Report/Banking Reports:** The Monthly Financial Report has been updated to include the end of the previous month's to-date revenues and expenses.  
**Budgets:** All budgets are in good shape, except for the General Fund Budget which is in fair condition. The General Fund has complex issues and needs an amendment to balance the budget based on new incoming data. A budget amendment for the General Fund and the other funds will be proposed at the November Board Meeting.  
**Revenues:** An overpayment of ARRA funds in the amount of \$60,136.21 were returned to the state on July 5. It is worth noting that the State will be reimbursing the township nearly \$92,000 for the campground project.  
**Expenses:** The new township pickup and related maintenance equipment cost over \$40,000. The Sheriff Residence roofing costs increased by \$2,900 for a total of \$26,400. Other than these two one-time payments, the expenses associated with payroll are the largest fiscal issue for this fund. Payroll costs associated with the general fund are noted below. A total of \$59,522.47? was paid back or will be paid back into the General Fund from other the fund the expenditures were incurred. In the future, to continue to seek timely reimbursement into the general fund, we will routinely invoice each fund that used general fund wages (etc.) to represent a transparent view of these current bank fund transfers.
 

i. April: \$27,253.06	iii. June: \$68,696.23	v. August: \$60,019.34
ii. May: \$24,980.76	iv. July: \$91,371.39	
2. **Recommend making standard payments, including payment as follows:**
  - a. **\$2,900 from the Street & Road**, which represents 1/3 of the cost of a Radar/Speed Trailer for Island-wide use. Peaine Township and BIHS via a Tourism/Safety Grant will pay the other portions. This trail need was discussed at the August 15 Publics Works special meeting.
  - b. **\$5,000 from Charlevoix Co. Parks Millage**, which is for a new ADA Port-a-Jon at the campground. There is an 8-month lead time for delivery. The existing PaJ at the campground belongs at J. Gillespie Park.
3. Beaver Island Emergency Services Authority requests the below actions:
  - a. **Request to levy for BIEMS 3.000 mills as approved by the voters** rather than the current 2.2 mills levied. This levy would actually be 2.9709 mills given the required Headlee reduction (this reduction is explained below).
  - b. **Request for St James and Peaine Township to provide \$45,000 each to support BIEMS payroll** for the September-December 2022 period with payback by the end of March 2023.
4. The **annual L-4029 Tax Rate Request** report is due September 30. It is worth noting that the 1978 Constitution amendment known as the Headlee reduction factor is applicable to all millages except those that were voted into place in August 2022. This reduction factor, along with changes attributed to the Proposal A in 1994, protects homeowners who have not purchased new property from increases in property taxes. **Each of these "older" millages are reduced by a 0.9903 factor given that the township's property value increased from \$48,730,272 to \$51,691,033 due to recent property purchases.**

As an example, the Airport has a 1.0000 millage rate which was voted upon in August 2020, therefore, the 1.0000 millage rate times the 0.9903 factor equals a new millage rate of 0.9903.

New property owners with an increased property value will pay a greater amount of taxes than the former property owner if, as is the case in most instances, the property value increased due to the sale price. There may be an allowable inflation increase for all properties as imposed by the state of Michigan.

**Public Works, Health, and Safety Committee:**

1. At the August 15 Public Works Committee meeting it was proposed this committee become the **Public Works, Health, and Safety Committee** thereby extending the reach of this committee over issues important to the township. This committee in companion with the newer Finance and Administration Committee will serve the township in discussing most of the issues related to oversight of township governance.
2. Charlevoix **County Sheriff** Update: Via a telephone call on September 9, Sheriff Vondra reports that **he fully supports the need for a second deputy** on the Island and can provide resources (Supervisor Tilly reports the same); further, the Sheriff is supportive of the **planned update of Island emergency management plans**, our participation in the **county's hazardous mitigation plan development**, the township forming a **Health and Safety Advisory Committee**, and the township and deputy hosting a **Safety Issues Forum** three times a year. Sheriff Vondra would like to attend one of these meetings each year.

**Supervisor's Report:**

1. The full MNRTF Grant Application was submitted by Cynthia on September 9. Her work to develop this application was outstanding.
2. Cpl. Jill Miller (DNR) is coming to the Island to host three no-wake zone public hearings on October 21 for Font Lake (two hearings; one for each township) and Fox Lake. Hearing details are still being worked out.
3. The sale report for the township's harbor property opposite the old DNR building was posted on the township's website on August 21 and shared with three interested parties.
4. The vacant Planning Commissioner position and renewed ZBA positions were posted on September 12.
5. The RFP to hire an assessor was reviewed and approved by John Johnson, longtime Island property owner and retired Ottawa County Equalization Director on September 12. John suggested that this RFP get posted to the Michigan Assessors Association. We will post the RFP later today or tomorrow on the township website and reach out to the MAA on September 13th.