

1. Call to Order: The Public Budget Meeting of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Troxell at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at the Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Swatara, PA 17111.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: President Troxell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Attendance: Commissioners Connolly, Varner, Spandler, Chiavetta, Troxell, Milakovic, Murphy, Moyer, and Boudier were present. Also present: Assistant Administrator Zimmerman, Treasurer Fosselman, Highway Superintendent Todd Webb, Fire Marshal Ibberson, and Secretary Rubinic.
4. 2016 Budget Discussion: Finance Chair Chiavetta announced the Budget Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday will be advertised for 6 PM, October 28. Treasurer Fosselman reviewed the Revenues and answered questions about grants. The Recycling Grant was not filed on time and there needs to be follow-up on this.
5. Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Webb reviewed the line items on his department's proposed budget. Several changes were suggested and figures were updated by Treasurer Fosselman. Items highlighted included several insurance items, engineering services, vehicle maintenance & repair, and capital outlay. Mr. Webb outlined costs for purchase of a salt brine trailer and a boom mower. The vehicle purchases planned are a new pickup and new dump truck. He would also like to put GPS units on the street sweepers. Jim will check the figures in 430 Contract Services. The proposed paving program was discussed. Todd would like to be ready to go to bid in early March. Jim reported there is \$600,000 in the bond fund for paving. There was discussion of the MS4 billings. Commissioner Moyer stressed the need to schedule a meeting on this and get to the bottom of the issue. Compost Facility-- Todd reviewed the line items. There was discussion on the water and sewer costs. There is a need to locate the water and electric lines at the facility. There is also a discrepancy with 426 Contract Service--should only pay for one testing service.
6. Public Comments:
Shane Steele, #206, 600 Yale Street--had questions about the use of salt brine and the effect on overtime. He asked Todd to consider the fire stations in planning paving projects. He feels that GPS trackers in street sweepers seem unnecessary. He questioned the need for a new highway facility. Commissioner Milakovic replied that this is planned to meet the needs of the Police Department. Mr. Steele feels the

Township is on a course to raise taxes over the next 10-15 years. He would suggest getting rid of the present building and building a new Township building. He feels we need to stop increasing government.

Bob Radosevic, 44 N. 46th Street--reiterated his comments about the poor condition of S. 46th Street and his failure to see the need for repaving of the end of Derry Street. He asked to take another look at 46th Street because it is falling apart.

7. Emergency Management: Emergency Management Director Craig Powers reviewed the line items of his budget. The biggest change is in Capital Outlay for a generator. He has been asking for a generator since 2011 and now has a quote from a CoStars vendor. The building will be in use for at least 5 more years and he will be looking at needing HVAC unit next year. There was discussion about purchasing the generator now versus budgeting for next year. There is also an issue with the building being 3-phase and trying to switch to single-phase. Brenden Orth has been looking at this and will check into the possibility of the work being completed yet this year. Brenden also had comments about replacing the heating units with a mini-system that would handle the office area. There was also discussion about why the EMA is not under the Fire Budget.

Mr. Powers would also like to add a line item for Training in amount of \$500. Commissioner Chiavetta moved to purchase the generator now using Capital Reserve. The motion was not seconded and so failed.

8. Public Comments:

Mark Beatty, 661 Cambria Avenue--President, Rutherford Fire Company--had comments about the area being at high risk for emergency events; i.e. the airport, rail yards. He asked the Board to keep that in mind when making decisions about generators to run the Emergency Management center.

9. Fire Services: Fire Marshal Ibberson reviewed the line items of his budget. The highlighted items include salary, insurance, and legal services. The funding for Advertising & Publications was added to provide for Fire Prevention Week materials.

It was again brought up to move EMA into Fire Services, but noted that there may be restrictions on the use of Fire Tax funds; this needs to be looked into.

10. Public Comments:

Mark Beatty, 661 Cambria Avenue--President, Rutherford Fire Company--gave kudos to the Fire Marshal for the budget presented. He stressed the need to address volunteer recruitment and retention. The Fire Marshal said he is open to any suggestions.

Shane Steele, #206, 600 Yale Street-- echoed Mark's comments and said there is a need to revamp the present system and to do it now. He suggested a pay-per-call basis. And what about providing for health and welfare, like fitness memberships? He would like to see a number put in the budget for recruitment.

Brenden Orth, 6310 Huntingdon Street, Chambers Hill Fire Chief--also feels health & welfare is an item to look at providing. He will continue to work with the Fire Marshal on this; and Mike will continue to reach out to Firemen's Relief on this.

There was a period of open discussion with the firemen present about moving EMA into Fire Services. This will be an on-going topic.

Commissioner Moyer also spoke about the progress being made in preparing 5-year budget plans for each department.

11. Revenues: Treasurer Fosselman reviewed the revenues for each department.
12. Adjournment: Commissioner Chiavetta moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Milakovic and carried unanimously. The Budget Meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.



Dolores M. Rubinic, Township Secretary