

1. Call to Order: The Public Budget Meeting of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Troxell at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 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, Finance Director Fosselman, Brenden Orth, and Secretary Rubinic.
4. Consideration of Minutes: President Troxell asked for approval of the following minutes:
 - A. Budget Meeting - October 21, 2015:
Commissioner Moyer made a correction to Highway Superintendent Webb's name.
 - B. Budget Meeting - October 28, 2015:
Commissioner Chiavetta moved to approve both of the above minutes as corrected. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion; carried unanimously.
5. Recreation: Assistant Administrator Zimmerman reviewed the line items this department's proposed budget.
Brenden Orth reviewed the proposed wages for a director and staff for both year-round and summer. The summer program was figured for 8 weeks at 9 parks. This would be the top number to aim for; the Board would like to see figures for perhaps 7 park programs, but will use the higher figure for budget purposes.
The capital outlay of \$40,000 includes installation costs for a playset in Vanatta Park. There is also need to purchase and replace an outdated playset at Long Park. There is additional work needed on upgrading the electric and switches in park restrooms. If costs allow, there is a need for a camera system at Ivy Ridge to deter some of the vandalism at that park.
Commissioner Moyer expressed that Assistant Administrator Zimmerman does a great job administering the budget and is the reason there are positive management results. Commissioner Connolly added that the maintenance of the parks is really good.
Commissioner Moyer wants to look at the amount of time spent on building maintenance by Recreation personnel. Is there a need to make a change in the job description or create a new position? The Recreation Committee will look into this and report back to the Board with a recommendation.
6. Emergency Management: Commissioner Moyer asked if any research was done on moving Emergency Management under Fire Services. An answer needs to be gotten

on what the Ordinance allows the Fire Tax to be used for. The Commissioner Milakovic and the Fire Committee will check on this and make a recommendation. There was also discussion on how much the fire tax rate could be increased, without raising taxes, just adjusting the general tax rate to compensate.

7. General Discussion: It was discussed to hold off on the EMA generator purchase until there is clarification on use of the Fire Tax.
There was discussion about savings by reducing salary increases to 2% from 3%. This only amounts to about \$15,000 in savings.
There was discussion about some negotiations on the Police budget. There was discussion about the 14% increase in health insurance. There were suggested cuts that would take the budget change to +7.24 %.
The Compost Facility Water-Sewer was cut to \$7,000 because of double billing issues in the past.
In Highways \$140,000 for a salt briner was removed after discussion about the effectiveness and the low potential savings.
There was discussion about work done under MS4 that was not authorized and was not discussed as over-budget before the bill was paid. There was a meeting on this and the engineer will be sending a memo on this.
8. Tax Collector: The Board made several cuts in the Tax Office budget. Tax Collector Donato defended his need for two full-time employees. There was discussion about how other municipalities handle tax collection.
9. Codes Office: There were questions about the health insurance increase and the need to look at the coding. There was lengthy discussion about the amount of legal services and who approves the bills and makes sure the billing is correct. There is a need to get further itemization on legal billing. Board would like Ms. Everett to come in again with a lower percentage.
10. Public Comments:
Joe Donato, 701 S. Harrisburg St.--commented on Parks & Recreation and the need to hire a Director who can come up with a game plan. We have this property and we need a plan. Commissioner Moyer was asked to have Recreation look at this.
11. Action Items:
Fire Committee--look at moving EMA under Fire Tax per Ordinance
Recreation--make recommendation on Recreation/Building Maintenance position
Police--request Chief Umberger come back with budget under 5% increase
Codes--need to check on health insurance figures and possible coding error
Administrator Cornell--information on cost of redistricting GIS from Susquehanna or get an average figure from HRG
Review procedures for documentation of legal services and comparison with billing

