

1. Budget Session: A Budget Session was held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, prior to the Regular Meeting II at the Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Swatara, PA 17111. All nine Commissioners were present.

Commissioner Chiavetta asked about the allocation for Redistricting which was reduced to \$8,000. Commissioner Moyer asked if an estimate has been gotten and Commissioner Chiavetta said that is in process.

There was discussion about the cost for two Police vehicles; it was calculated at \$42,000 each. Commissioner Moyer questioned why we are cutting two police vehicles when they are part of the 5-year plan. Chief Umberger outlined his replacement plan, which this year calls for three patrol cars and a chief's car at a cost of \$165,000. Commissioner Chiavetta would like to see what is coming in from EIT before the end of the year.

There was also discussion about the payments for crossing guards at Steel-Hi. Payment was received for January thru May. Finance Director Fosselman made a correction to the figures for Steel-Hi and Central Dauphin which were reversed. There was discussion about the number of vehicle replacements needed and how putting this off does not follow the directive for long-range planning.

2. Codes: Director Everett reviewed Animal Control which needs to be \$23,000, to include the Humane Society and Steelton Cats. She will continue to work with Steelton Cats on the PetCo grant. There was discussion about the billing from the Humane Society and who is authorizing the vouchers. Chief Umberger will also look into this with his officers.

3. Revenues: Commissioner Moyer discussed the revenue side of the Codes Budget, especially Building Permits, Zoning Permits, and Franchise Permits. These are mostly estimates based on history. Commissioner Moyer had concerns about inflating the end-of-year revenue figures. He asked that these numbers be flagged for review.

Commissioner Moyer asked Chief Umberger to work with Jim to separate the Paxtang officers benefit costs from the total figure for Police Services.

There was discussion about lost revenues from Steel-Hi for Police Services. They will be billed about \$80,000 for this year.

There was also discussion about Real Estate Transfer estimates and EIT and LST. It was recommended to increase the Real Estate Transfer income by \$50,000.

4. Recess: President Troxell recessed the Budget Session at 6:55 PM to conduct the Regular Meeting II.
5. Reconvene: The Budget Meeting was reconvened into public session at 9:10 PM. There was discussion about the time line for the budget. Solicitor Wion explained the process according to the 1st Class Township Code. The Board cannot take action

on the budget until it is published or made available for public inspection for 20 days. This means the Budget would need to be placed on the table by November 20 and then would have to be advertised by November 30, in order to be adopted at the December 9 meeting. If any changes are made that are more than 10% over the proposed budget in total or 25% in any line item, the budget must be readvertised. Commissioner Moyer said he would support taking 25% of the return, applying it to the budget, and figure out what to do with the other reserve for infrastructure repairs. He feels it's an injustice to say we will not raise taxes; everything else is going up--we're going to have to raise taxes at some point when the economy is not as good as it is right now. That's what happened in the past.

Commissioner Spandler asked what is the Finance Committee's suggestion to balance the budget. Commissioner Chiavetta said he wants to see what revenues come in.

Commissioner Connolly said we're not talking about dipping into the Reserve--we're talking about not putting as much in? Finance Director Fosselman said he recommends putting as much as we can into the Reserve and then budgeting a revenue line item of Transfer from Capital Reserve.

Commissioner Moyer said he has figured there is about \$400,000 in money that was over-budgeted and will not be spent; then there is about \$250,000 in revenues that are questionable they will be received.

Jim added that the figures for mitigation expenses are in the general fund that has not been reimbursed in the amount of about \$250,000. He would like to include October's figures to get a more accurate forecast.

President Troxell had questions about the "option" shown in the Township Code. Solicitor Wion clarified that there is not option--the process is what is now being done. If the budget is to be adopted on December 9 and not have a special meeting on the 27th, it needs to be passed and then adjusted as the year goes on. It is unlawful to submit an unbalanced budget.

There is another Budget Meeting advertised for next week at 6 PM.

6. Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.



Dolores M. Rubinic, Township Secretary