



9. Visitor Requests & Comments:

A. Brian Faleshock, 966 Lark Drive: Asked the Board if contractors are not based in Swatara Township but comes in to do a job within the township, are they required to get a business privilege license and pay a business privilege tax? Mr. Fosselman said they are required to have a license and pay the tax if working in the township for more than fifteen days. The business privilege tax officer coordinates with the codes department to make sure contractors are licensed.

Mr. Faleshock asked if the Board would consider doing a five-year budget model. The Director of Fire Services has done a five-year projection for his budget. Commissioner Connolly said the township is looking forward, but this evening they are concentrating on the 2018 budget. Mr. Faleshock said it was only a suggestion.

10. Investigation of Any Possible Stormwater Violations: There were no comments.11. Commissioners Requests & Comments:

Commissioner Moyer: Sure, good job Jim, on the budget, great job on the fact that we have had some good economic development, you know, in the area looking at the increase in revenue coming in, not only from the BP taxes, but you know, income from property taxes as well so definitely a big positive there. You know, Chief, I kind of look back and I didn't get to look over all the budget numbers, I just got it, I saw it came in late yesterday afternoon and I got it today but as I looked at your overtime number and then kind of looked at some of the other figures of adding new staff on and seeing what that fee was, I mean, you know, a couple of new staff with benefits is two-thirds of the number that you are asking for for the HEAP program. So, you know, again, looking at some targeted efforts that may be something we should look at at times in certain areas to say would it be better to offer overtime and pay overtime than maybe adding on a larger number of staff. Especially if it's a peak work or things like that where it may only occur a couple months out of the year you put staff on to do that kind of stuff.

Chief Reider: And remember that overtime number too, you can look at it, we get reimbursed for a large amount of that number by the Mall and the Capitol Diner and the theater. It's reflected in the budget because we don't show it as revenue, it's not quite as large as it looks.

Commissioner Moyer: I meant just the hundred forty, I'm just talking about your jump of the hundred forty thousand dollars that you asked for.

Chief Reider: Right, and to go back to what I said about that. If I come in here and say that we need three or four more police officers to attack street level crime, then we need to start doing, start adding up their salaries and benefits and the fact that they will be here forever...

Commissioner Moyer: Forever is the key word.

Chief Reider: Right, and the buy outs and all those other things, to me it makes more sense to set a number and try this out and see how it works because then we can dial it back...

Commissioner Moyer: Right

Chief Reider: And it seems to me we have more control over that, and we are on a five-year projected budget for the police department. We are in the fifth year, that is part of the fifth-year projected budget, was proactively attacking crime and its one of the last parts of our five-year budget. We are going to do another five-year projected budget next year and we'll talk about that next year. That's why it was added in there as one of the last parts of the five-year plan.

Commissioner Moyer: It's a good plan and I think you bring up some things. I'm just overly cautious at times when I'm glad we have increased revenues coming in I always have flash backs of a market crash again, abandoned homes, and that whole thing. I'm not saying that there's anything in a crystal ball that says that's coming, but it is very hard when you ramp that up and then all of a sudden slide back, and like you said, they are here forever. You are not going to be able to say, wow, I don't have the money to pay it with the current money that we have coming in. But, great job I think working with other departments maybe is something we need to look at for programs in the future.

Commissioner Boudier: I just want to add that I appreciate the work that Jim does with a limited staff. It's very much appreciated Jim, keeping the Township fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Troxell: Commissioner Connolly?

Commissioner Connolly: While we are talking about the budget, I would also like to thank Jim and I know department heads, the administrative staff was involved and Steve, the chair of the budget committee for putting together a good budget and I think that we are going to be proud of it and its serving the residents and taxpayers well. I would also like to say, thank the police department, they did a great job on the actual Trick-or-Treat night, which is not the Halloween night, but the temperature was cool and it seemed the number of kids was down everywhere and that was kind of reflective of people I saw on Facebook who I talked to, but we had a pretty good police presence out there during that time. I would also like to thank our fire companies, the highway department, and our police department for the effort that they put forth to make the Paxtang Halloween Parade a big success. I did see some of our fire companies and the highway float in the Hummelstown Parade the other night. It's nice to see that as much as we provide the necessary required services, that we have a lot of people in the community that come together and do the extra things for our community and neighboring communities to make Swatara kind of stand out and let people know that this is a good place to live. That's all I have, thank you.

Commissioner Milakovic: Yes, one thing, whenever we were voting on the closing of Main Street, I don't know if I heard you correctly, but did I hear you refer to it as a Veterans Day...and I just to make sure it wasn't in the minutes as Veterans Day...I don't know whether you...

Commissioner Troxell: Let's see, it was...

Commissioner Milakovic: Is it a special event recognizing military veterans?

Commissioner Connolly: Yes, it is a special event that Patty Kim's office asked if we could close that little section...yes, it is the day before I believe.

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Commissioner Milakovic: Yes. I didn't know whether they were having an event on the day, I guess or not.

Commissioner Connolly: Yes, you are right.

Commissioner Milakovic: I would like to commend Jim on the budget and your AccuFund program is, I remember starting off with eight hundred thousand dollars in the budget years ago and it's a lot easier to read now and understand it. I remember going through number by number at the beginning and I think as the years progress it's going to be a lot easier and the budgets are going to be a lot smoother to compile.

Finance Director Fosselman: I appreciate the Board allowing me to work with department heads. We used to sit there and go over every line item until eleven o'clock.

Commissioner Milakovic: Yes.

Director of Finance Fosselman: If you present the statistics and estimates and historical background, it makes it a lot easier for everybody, including department heads to make it clear, this is what it is and what it should be.

Commissioner Milakovic: It took couple of years to get a good historical background to you.

Director of Finance Fosselman: I remember, Commissioner Moyer you remember, you used to open a file for everything...now it's all in one file. We have budgets that go across the years, something you recommended years ago because it was back and forth and the carry-forward and another thing he brought up is the wage thing. This is the thing that took some time, now I do the wage thing and incorporate it. You can see this is five pages (holds up a spreadsheet), every employee. Until you get all the figures it won't work. That's why there was a hold up in the wages, I didn't have all the figures because the pension distribution and everything is based on the wages and the percentages of whole considerations. So, this is a tremendous tool that I use now to come up with because it gives me the subtotal for every department, for the FICA, etc. that's why it's now easier to look at and you don't have to spend hours to look at the information. It's not a case of you are in the seventh month and you divide by seven and multiply by twelve. It's historical cycling that you have to look at too to come up with the budget this year. But since we've done this now for a couple of years it makes it easier.

Commissioner Troxell: Thanks.

Director of Finance Fosselman: Thanks.

Commissioner Troxell: Commissioner Varner

Commissioner Varner: I don't have anything tonight.

Commissioner Troxell: Oh, okay, Steve?

Commissioner Chiavetta: Yes I do

Commissioner Troxell: Oh, okay.

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Commissioner Chiavetta: Yes, I do. Well, Jan, um, this is directed to you, please. It's smear time with election and I'm one of the cronies that want the administration building, this is in all the houses (holds up a political flyer). And once again, it's a smear campaign, lies, nothing but lies. And I have the minutes of the June 7th meeting that I made the motion to stop the halt on the township building and it was a six to one vote to stop it and I want the website to be updated to reflect that that is an absolute lie. That this Board stopped the project and this garbage that's hitting houses, don't think you got all the voters bullshitted because you don't. That's all I got to say, but I want that updated. And if we need a roll call, let's roll call it.

Commissioner Varner: The website isn't a political campaign...

Commissioner Chiavetta: There's no township building pal.

Commissioner Varner: I understand that but...

Commissioner Chiavetta: This is your stuff, this is you.

Commissioner Varner: I seen the stuff that came out.

Commissioner Chiavetta: Yeah, no kidding. No kidding. I know where it came from.

Commissioner Troxell: Okay, okay (banging gavel)

Commissioner Chiavetta: Don't give me that stuff. You are the puppet man, give me a break.

Commissioner Troxell: Okay. Restore a little bit of order here and we did, we will be advertising the budget and whatnot and, so I would propose to the Board that this pertinent information that was financial in nature and, so I believe that's something that needs to get out to the public, so folks can realize we did do something in the newsletter demonstrating our fiscal responsibility. We are not really sure if folks are really absorbing the message as well as we might, and we are trying to be as transparent as possible. I'm going to ask that the Board would support editing our website to include information for anything that may be misunderstood out there regarding our budget as well as any capital projects. So, that's a request I will make of the Board. I will make that motion and ask for a second.

Commissioner Chiavetta: Second.

Commissioner Troxell: And are there any negative votes?

Commissioner Moyer: Aye

Commissioner Varner: Aye

Commissioner Milakovic: Aye

Commissioner Troxell: Okay, any other negative votes?

Commissioner Boudier: I wonder why.

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Commissioner Moyer: Well it would be a one-sided presentation Mr. Boudier and...

Commissioner Varner: Is there any discussion on it? Cause I don't think our website should be updated based on a political campaign.

(muffled discussion)

Commissioner Troxell: Seeing the motion being made and approved, the action will occur. That brings the comments to myself as well. I want to thank everyone for coming out to listen to our budget presentation. I do know that we are in a very tumultuous time here at the township and we just appreciate your patience and I will continue to pray for this group because you need it. So, with that being said, we are adjourned.

12. Adjournment: President Troxell adjourned the Regular Meeting I at 7:57 p.m.

  
Karen Alleman, Acting Secretary