

MINUTES

BUDGET MEETING

SWATARA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 9, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** President Connolly called the Budget Meeting of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners to order at 6:05 p.m. Monday, November 9, 2020 at the Swatara Township Municipal Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Swatara, PA 17111.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Zubeck, Varner, Ellis, Vice President Boudier and President Connolly were present. Also present: Township Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Building and Codes Director Robert Ihlein, Director of Public Safety Darrell Reider and Assistant Secretary Karen Alleman.
4. **Motion to Approve Agenda:** A motion was made by President Connolly to approve the agenda, with additions, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. The addition of "visitors requests and comments" was made after each budget presentation.
5. **Presentation of Fire Services Budget:** Chief Ibberson presented the 2021 Swatara Fire and Rescue budget to the Board. The largest change to the budget is the addition of three part-time firefighter positions that would begin in July of 2021. Commissioner Zubeck asked for a copy of fire tax millage rates from 2008. She asked where the money from the fire tax was spent in 2008. She requested a copy of the bond interest rates. Manager Fosselman will get the information for her. She also requested Chief Ibberson give her the response times for calls.
6. **Visitors Requests and Comments**
 - A. **Tom Garlic, 6050 Hocker Drive:** Asked if incidents are handled internally or if an outside agency is called in to investigate. Chief Ibberson said it depended on the incident, but outside agencies have been called in to investigate. Mr. Garlic asked if the fire Tahoe's were maintained by the Township. Chief Ibberson replied yes, but the township hired a mechanic who formerly worked for Glick Fire and can repair and maintain fire equipment. The mechanic saved the township about \$120,000 the first year he was hired.
 - B. **Gary Harvey, 105 South 47th Street:** Asked how the salary for a part-time firefighter was determined. Chief Ibberson said it was based on an average of surrounding municipalities. Mr. Harvey asked what equipment the Tahoe's had inside them. Chief Ibberson said BLS bag, defibrillator, basic first aid kit. The drivers are trained at the first responder level. Mr. Harvey thanked the township for providing training to firefighters.
 - C. **Michael Tuckey, 5875 Gensemer Lane:** Said the fire tax has gone up 500% over ten years. Asked why the police department and fire department cannot apply for gaming grants at the same time. President Connolly said the gaming grants are decided at the county level and there is only a certain amount of money available. We would be up against each other for grant money so its better for one department go apply and get a larger amount of money. Mr. Tuckey asked if social media was being used to recruit volunteers. Chief Ibberson said it was.
7. **Police Department Budget:** Director of Public Safety Reider presented his 2021 budget to the Board. A lot of his numbers are set by the collective bargaining agreement. Commissioner Zubeck asked for projections into 2022-2023-2024. She will be provided with a copy of the collective bargaining agreement. Commissioner Ellis asked how many officers were hired in

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2020. One officer was hired. She asked what the line item titled "crime prevention" was. That is the Community Service Officer's expenditures. President Connolly said the K-9's are funded 100% from grants and private funds.

8. **Visitors Requests and Comments:** None at this time.
9. **Building and Codes Budget:** Director of Building and Codes Robert Ihlein presented his budget to the Board. He would like to update the department with tablets and printers to be used in the field. He would also like to lease a vehicle to replace the fifteen-year-old vehicle currently in use.
10. **Visitors Requests and Comments:** None at this time.
11. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.



Karen Alleman, Assistant Secretary