

Board of Supervisors Special Budget Work session Meeting Tuesday October 28, 2008

The Board of Supervisors conducted a special budget work session on Tuesday October 28, 2008 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Chairwoman Ms. Silvernail called the meeting to order. Present were Supervisors Ms. Horan and Mr. Hensel, Police Chief Jay Groce, and Mr. Joe Drozd Township Financial Consultant.

The moment of silence and pledge of allegiance was waved.

Ms. Silvernail gave the meeting direction to Mr. Drozd.

Mr. Drozd went over with the Board the actual 2008 budget and the proposed 2009 budget and stated that there is a deficit of \$234,800. Mr. Drozd stated that if the taxes were raised to meet the deficit the Board would have to increase the rate an additional 1.25 mills. Mr. Drozd proposed a rate of 3% increase for 6 employees for 2009. The police department would not be included in this increase.

Ms. Silvernail stated that Dave Turner measured the old Township Building and the measurement is 1,995 square feet, not including the garage or salt shed. She suggested contacting a realtor to put the building out for rent.

Mr. Hensel stated that police hours on the proposed budget should be lower since the police are not 24/7 and Chief Groce should get together with Mr. Drozd and do away with the night shift. Ms. Silvernail stated that the State Police take over when the Township Police are not on duty; so the Township would have coverage.

Ms. Silvernail stated that she spoke with Bob Ward of Whitford Insurance and told him that if they increase their premiums, she will shop around for better prices with other Insurance Companies.

Mr. Hensel had questions on the Local Service Tax. Mr. Drozd stated that employees who earn less than \$12,000 do not pay this tax. He stated that there are a lot of part-time employees who do not pay this tax. Berkheimer Associates, the tax collector for the Township should have a handle on who pays this tax or not. Mr. Drozd will have a final amount at the year end audit.

Mr. Drozd asked the Supervisors if they had any suggestions on how to reduce the General Fund. He also stated that he wants to keep \$500,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for emergencies to use if revenues go down.

Ms. Silvernail stated that legal expenses should be a lot less and maybe should be cut by half.

Mr. Hensel suggested that Chief Groce talk to Mr. Drozd on a way to decrease his projected 2009 budget to \$250,000. Mr. Hensel stated that the Chief should shave his budget. Also the paving of Compass Road should be left open for this year.

Ms. Silvernail suggested that the Township raise the fee for registered plumbers and contractors from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per year.

Mrs. Silvernail suggested a park rental increase. Ms. Horan stated that there is a park meeting this evening and she will discuss the matter with the park committee.

Mrs. Silvernail suggested that the cell phone bill be reviewed.

Ms. Horan suggested that someone should talk to Jamie MacCombie about Capital Improvements to see what can be eliminated. Mr. Drozd will talk to Mr. MacCombie about this matter.

Ms. Silvernail stated that the desire of the Board is to hold taxes and get the budget bare boned and see what happens next year with taxes. Ms. Silvernail stated she really does not want a tax increase and will consider it only as a last resort.

The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Silvernail stated that several interviews have been held for the position of part time road crew person. This position has a starting salary of \$14.59 per hour with a six month probation at which time he will receive a \$1.00 increase.

Mr. Hensel stated that the only reason a part time person would be needed is to plow snow. He stated that with the new prevailing wage, there are things that the road crew can't do that they used to do.

Ms. Horan stated that maybe it would be an idea to hire someone now and if we don't need them later not to hire them after the probationary period, or hire someone part time for 6 months out of the year during the winter months.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Ms. Horan to hire Matthew Davis at a salary of \$14.59 an hour and re-evaluate after his 6 month probation. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

The Board at this time went into executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shank
Assistant Secretary

