

Board of Supervisors' Special Budget Work Session-Tuesday, October 28, 2014

A special budget work session of the Board of Supervisors was conducted on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Chairwoman, Ms. Silvernail called the meeting to order. Present were Supervisors, Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Taylor, Township Engineer/Zoning Officer Mr. MacCombie, and Township Auditor, Mr. Drozd.

The moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance were waived.

Mr. Drozd began by reviewing the 2015 budget detail prepared on October 21, 2014. There is a proposed increase in property taxes from 1.05 mills in 2014 to 3.25 mills in 2015.

The Sadsbury Village Enhancement Grant of \$436,000 will pay for construction costs for the project. The total project costs \$465,000, with construction to start during April of 2015 and completed in December of 2015. The project is a reimbursement project which means the Township would have to front the money and wait 60-75 days for reimbursement. This will put limits on usage of the Capital Reserve Fund. Also concerning the Sadsburyville Village Enhancement Project, a developer owes for 125 units at \$1,332.00. The developer paid for 40 units in 2011 and owes for 85 units to a total amount of \$113,220.00. Mr. MacCombie stated that John Lymberis anticipates Lafayette Square to build additional units at some time. Mr. Lymberis has agreed to build the sidewalks for the Village Enhancement Project but cannot until the Township builds the curbs. Mr. MacCombie recommends an agreement be made and signed with the Township and Mr. Lymberis to maintain the sidewalks and curbs and money to be escrowed by Mr. Lymberis.

PIRMA insurance will increase by 5% in 2015, along with Workers Compensation, and other insurance on vehicles, etc. Engineering expenses will increase by an average of 3% in 2015 with the additional costs for MS-4 preparation at \$45,000. Maintenance and supplies include \$1,300 for generator consisting of 1 major and 3 minor services, and a building surge protector at \$1,000. The trash fees would stay the same for 2015 with renewal of the contract in September 2016.

The proposed budget provided by the Sadsbury Township Police Department includes an additional full-time officer, computer repair/maintenance, computer network expense, contract service by Cody Systems, Coatesville lock-up, ENRADD calibration, portable breath tester and patrol rifles.

Contributions to the fire companies would remain the same for the year 2015. A SALDO review should be done in 2015 and the Park and Open Space Planning will finish this year and receive \$9,000 back from the grant.

The Public Works Department proposed budget includes general repairs, rental of mower equipment twice a year at \$2,700 per rental, purchase of Tandem dump truck, street sweeper, utility trailer, snow blower, and computer. The Board is waiting on a

final quote from Dave Simmons for the basketball court renovations. Mr. MacCombie stated there is a possibility he can obtain basketball court equipment from another Township that has them but does not use them. He will also give the Board a copy of the Federal Guideline for soft landing materials. Special Projects consists of GIS Mapping software and Sadsbury Village Enhancement Project construction costs. Health Insurance premiums will increase by 10% in 2015.

Ms. Silvernail stated that she wants to eliminate the tax increase by trying to minimize items on the projected budget. Ms. Silvernail stated the Township cannot afford a full-time officer. Calls and citations are down from last year, so how can another full-time officer be justified? Mr. Drozd stated that it is a state law that a municipality with 3 or more full-time police officers must join the state pension plan PMR (Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement). Sergeant Imhoff stated that calls are down because property checks were taken off the call list. Part-timers are not always available to run the ENRADD; which should have at least 4 officers to run properly. Part-timers have other jobs and are not always available. Chief Ranck stated that 1 additional full-time officer will cut down on the part-timers. Ms. Silvernail stated there are only 3,500 people in the Township and we cannot compete with East Fallowfield and West Sadsbury Township, each of which has double the population. Mr. Drozd stated that a pension is an on-going liability forever to be budgeted by the Township. For example, the Township would have to budget \$40,000 a year for 30 years for 1 officer, and that pension would be paid as long as that officer is retired, until they die. That equates to \$1,200,000 per full-time officer. Ms. Silvernail stated the Board might have to consider consolidation with other municipalities. Sergeant Imhoff stated he would like Mr. Pinto, a representative of the PMR to explain the pension process to the Board. The Board went over the proposed budget for 2015 to look for ways to trim some items. Mr. Taylor suggested more research should be done. Mr. Taylor stated there are repairs needed to be made to the bed of the International dump truck. Ms. Silvernail suggested purchasing a used bed to fit the truck for about \$20,000. Mr. Taylor will have Jamie Bowers check this out at Cohen's in Thorndale. Also the 2009 dump truck needs to have frame work done.

The proposed Sewer budget for 2015 shows no rate increase in the sewer rates or flat rate to cover the annual debt service. Mr. MacCombie stated that he has a proposal from James J. Greenhaigh, Jr. Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$5,800.00 to repair a sinkhole on Old Wilmington Road, as a result of the installation of the Township sewer line.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept a proposal from James J. Greenhaigh, Jr., Plumbing and Heating, of Brookhaven, PA in the amount of \$5,800 for a permanent repair of a 6'x5' patch of a sinkhole on Old Wilmington Road, as a result of the installation of the Township sewer line, to be a Liquid Fuels Expense. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacCombie stated that Sikorsky reported at the Washington Lane Task Force meeting on October 22, they received a 2.5 million dollar grant for the installation of a tunnel over Washington Lane. Sikorsky was preparing to come to the December 2, 2014 Board of Supervisors meeting, when the new chairman of the Airport Authority and David Jones, an Engineer from Delta wanted to know who would own the tunnel and who will handle the bidding process and who will finalize the bidding? The Airport Authority wants to come before the Board of Supervisors to have Washington Lane closed and not build the tunnel. Mr. MacCombie told them they are wasting their time, that the Board of Supervisors has already addressed the closing of Washington Lane and their stance is to build the tunnel.

Mr. MacCombie stated that Cindy Mammarella and Bill Conrad from West Sadsbury Township want to replace the traffic lights at 10 & 30 with LED lighting at a cost of \$14,000 or \$1500. Mr. MacCombie feels it would be wise to wait for a grant.

Mr. MacCombie reported that Bob Grabus of the Delaware Valley Planning Commission told him Sadsbury Commons has received a grant to pay for the connector road in the shopping center.

Public Comment

Mr. Taylor wanted to know if the part-time employees hired to help with snow removal would have to be finger printed. Sergeant Imhoff stated that anyone who comes into the area behind the door at the Township Building would have to be finger printed. Ms. Silvernail suggested that a time clock could be put at another location. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

Carolyn Blackburn from Fulton Bank appeared before the Board offering to give lock box information services and what it entails. She stated it will save the Township money in the long-run.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.

With there being no further business, Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, to adjourn the meeting. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Shank
Secretary