

## **Board of Supervisors Budget Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

A budget meeting of the Board of Supervisors was conducted on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Chairwoman, Ms. Silvernail called the meeting to order. Present were Supervisors Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Taylor, and Township Accountant, Mr. Drozd.

The moment of silence and Pledge Allegiance was waived.

Mr. Drozd went over various items in the budget that could be reduced or eliminated to bring the proposed tax increase of 2.45 mills to 1.30 mills. Some of the reductions consist of keeping the fire companies current coverage the same as last year with no changes, the Public Works department to order 4 radios and not 5, remove the street sweeper, reduce the line stripping, and the park renovations will be paid from open space payments. Mr. Drozd stated it would cost the Township \$51,000 for another full time police officer when you figure in benefits and it would require the officers to have a state pension. Ms. Silvernail stated the tax implications would be high as a pension would raise the Township contribution from 3% for an IRA to 10% for a pension. Sergeant Imhoff stated that for the first three years the Township pays the full amount of the pension. After the three years, the Township would get a kick-back from the state. Mr. Taylor stated he doesn't understand the pension issue and to him it is a sticking point. Ms. Silvernail stated to defer this decision until next year with the contract negotiations coming up. Brian Gathercole reported that the State Police are short in staff of officers and when Township Police are off duty in the midnight hours and 911 sends State Police, there is a 60 minute response time and if it is not an emergency, they are not coming. He also commented that 75% of the budget in most Townships is for the police. Mr. Greenfield stated another officer will lead to another tax increase. Sergeant Imhoff will get information on State Pension for Mr. Taylor.

A discussion ensued between Ms. Silvernail and David Reynolds from the Sadsburyville Fire Company concerning the funding for the fire departments. Mr. Reynold stated he made a proposal to the Township for 100% coverage in the Township for fire protection. They would provide no ambulance or EMS service. The proposal was less than Keystone Valley Fire Department. The Township funding will remain the same, with the Township paying for Sadsburyville Fire Company Workers Comp claims and insuring their equipment.

The Sadsbury Village Enhancement Project needs to be completed for cash flow. The Township pays for the project and is then reimbursed by the state grant. The MS4 project reports have to be filed by February 29<sup>th</sup> according to Act 167, even-though we are not polluting any streams. A 10% increase has been added to the trash account line item since it will be going out to bid soon.

Mr. Simmons stated that \$3,000 has been deleted from the quote on the large truck for the pre-wet system. Mr. Simmons would like to keep the International Truck in service and be kept as a back-up.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to purchase a 2017 new Mac truck as specked out in the proposal for \$193,100.18. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taylor stated the Township salt bin can stockpile a very limited amount of salt. Mr. Simmons suggested another municipality could stockpile 75 to 100 ton of salt for Sadsbury. Ms. Silvernail stated a new salt shed would involve engineering questions because of the MS4 issue.

Mr. Drozd stated the sewer will have no rate increase. Lincoln Crest Trailer Park owes the Township over \$100,000.00. If this is paid the usage rate of \$13.50 can be reduced to \$12.00. The expenses for the sewer are the telephone line to the pump station and the contract with Pennsylvania American to operate the system.

Ms. Silvernail stated the cord is broken on the flag pole at the Municipal building. Brandywine Flag in Downingtown can repair it for \$285.00.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, to have Downingtown Brandywine Flag repair the broken cord on the Municipal building flag pole for \$285.00. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taylor stated that in past snow storms, they relied on cell phones to keep in contact with each other. The cell service was terrible and portable radios are the best way to communicate.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, to purchase 4 radios in 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$4,700.00. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting, "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taylor stated LED lighting for the Township would save money in the long run. There is an initial cost at first. The parking lot should be done first, then replace lighting inside as they break. Mr. Drozd stated they can proceed with this after January 2016.

Mr. Simmons stated the water heater in the garage needs to be replaced.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, to replace the broken hot water heater in the garage with a new water heater to be installed by the Public Works Department from Lowes of Downingtown not to exceed \$999.00. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to upgrade the smart cell phones for the 2016 upgrade. With there being no questions from the public, the Board voting "aye", the motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to move forward with advertising the budget for public inspection. The final meeting to adopt the budget will be December 31, 2015.

With there being no public comment, Ms. Silvernail made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, 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