

POCONO TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING ON BUDGET

11/10/2015

3:00 p.m.

The special meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 11/10/2015 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 3:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Rich Wielebinski, present; Jerry Lastowski, present; Tom Felver, present; Peter Nish, absent; and Brad Wise, present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maxine Turbolski, Twp. resident, spoke concerning leaf burning in her area.

2016 BUDGET:

G. Schuster noted the tax rates are estimates.

Judi Coover, Twp. resident, noted an email from Gregg Christine, County manager stated the 2016 assessment rate is \$191,653,420.00.

T. Felver questioned the Real Estate Taxes and EIT taxes. G. Schuster explained the combining of funds.

B. Wise noted the 2014 cable franchise fees dropped due to changes in services. J. Coover questioned if the cable franchise fee could be eliminated.

T. Felver spoke concerning the Police Overtime. Kent Werkheiser, Pocono Township Police Chief, noted Monroe County Drug Task force reimburses the Township for overtime and Northeast Highway Safety Network is a grant program for aggressive driving.

Discussion followed on overtime for zoning officer, zoning hearing board secretary, salary increases for non-union employees, and training of employees.

G. Schuster suggested increasing the Police overtime to \$125,000.00. Kent Werkheiser, Police Chief, spoke concerning traffic enforcement.

B. Wise spoke concerning the planning and zoning engineering cost and where MS4 engineering will be covered. G. Schuster explained the engineer costs are broken out for the various projects. Jeffery Clapper, Public Works Director, explained the requirements maybe waived. B. Wise

J. Coover, Twp. resident, questioned the consolidation of utilities, maintenance and contracted services.

Discussion on the properties on Alger Ave. J. Clapper explained fencing will be installed and storage bins will be placed. He noted the properties are in floodplain.

J. Coover questioned the use of the recreation fund (Fee in Lieu) balance. G. Schuster explained he is working with Leo DeVito, Twp. Solicitor, to discuss where and how the funds can be spent.

B. Wise recommended the Learn Tract and TLC Tract development to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan. He noted a need for ballfields, hiking trails and a recreational center.

Discussion concerning the cost and need of a generator. J. Clapper noted it was an estimate for a generator for all three building.

Discussion on the use of the fund balance and the tax decrease. T. Felver and R. Wielebinski suggested a 1 mil reduction. G. Schuster suggested a ½ mil reduction with the option of reducing it to 1 mil if not funding is required for the ambulance.

Maxine Turbolski, questioned the funding for the Ambulance.

B. Wise questioned the sewer expenses:

- a) Unit for Sanofi - Jeff Clapper noted he is working with Sanofi and BCRA are working on the prices.
- b) Upgrade amount
- c) Cleanout of forcemain - G. Schuster noted it is not in the 2016 budget.
- d) Changes orders for the hump repair.

B. Wise suggested a \$100,000 contingency for the sewer project.

G. Schuster explained the funding for the Sewer funds.

Discussion followed on the estimate for sewer revenues in 2016. J. Clapper noted the majority of new connections will occur after the middle of the year. G. Schuster will review the amounts for sewer tap in fees and user fees.

Annabella Lastowski, Twp. resident, questioned the timing of budget adoption.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by T. Felver, to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; T. Felver, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela Finkbeiner
Township Secretary