

**POCONO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING ON THE BUDGET
NOVEMBER 25th, 2014 4:30 P.M.**

The Special meeting of the Pocono Township Commissioners was held on 11/25/2014, at the Pocono Township Municipal Building, Tannersville, PA, and was opened by President Richard Wielebinski at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Gregg Schuster, Twp. Manager, and Gina Zuvich, Twp. Treasurer, were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dan Snyder and Bill Forte, residents of Scotrun Ave, addressed the Board with concerns over sewer hookups. Discussion followed.

B. Wise noted the Township is aware of the problems with "as-built" drawings and lateral locations and are working to correct the issues.

G. Lastowski spoke concerning the past problems and the cost to residents. He noted the Township is looking into everything they can to help residents. He stated the Commissioners are as frustrated as the residents in resolving the problems and it will take time to correct.

P. Nish noted the Township is moving forward to correct the problems with the sewer line.

2015 PROPOSED BUDGET:

G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, reviewed the adjustments to the budget he made to stay at a zero tax increase.

- EIT projections were decreased by \$215,000. The LST projections were decreased by \$40,000.
- The Public Works Director salary will be split between the sewer fund and general fund.
- Removed the new Police detective position.
- Reduction of paving for two roads.
- Only one police officer candidate made the cut out of sixteen applications. The two other positions will be filled at a later date.
- The Sewer Hump repair and Rt. 611 project has been moved to sewer operating account.

Capital Improvement Plan and funding - G. Schuster explained a Capital Improvement fund cannot be created until a Capital Improvement Plan is in place.

T. Felver noted G. Schuster did an excellent job at keeping the expenses down. He noted the Township will switch to a modified accrual system next year.

Pocono Township Police Chief Kent Werkheiser explained the request for the new police car to maintain the fleet. The life of a police vehicle is approximately 4 years. Discussion followed on replacement schedule for police vehicles.

T. Felver left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Judi Coover, Twp. resident, spoke concerning the status of the Public Works vehicles; PSATS data for salary for Public Works Director; insurance for the Police vehicle equipment; and Township Engineering costs.

G. Schuster noted new Public Works vehicles will be addressed in the Capital Improvement plan.

Police Chief Kent Werkheiser stated they were able to reuse some of the equipment in the vehicle which was damaged but not all. The equipment is not covered under the current vehicle insurance plan. The Board requested the Twp. manager to pursue additional insurance coverage for the vehicle equipment.

Lon Marino, Twp. resident, spoke concerning the vehicle replacement plan.

R. Wielebinski spoke concerning the engineering costs; he noted the Township is addressing multiple problems - Wilkie Road, Stadden Bridge, Learn Road drainage, and Crescent Lake Culvert replacement. B. Wise noted he felt the amount of engineering time and associated costs were reasonable considering the number of projects that need to be completed..

G. Schuster stated the costs will go down once the sewer and road projects are completed.

Diane Zwiefel, Twp. resident, spoke concerning the police vehicles and the process to determine when a vehicle is replaced. Discussion followed.

Amy Rosen, Twp. resident, questioned the plan for the 3.4 million fund balance. G. Lastowski noted once a Capital Improvement Plan is created it will help to designate where the fund monies will be spent.

Lon Marino, Twp. resident, questioned the Park budget. Discussion followed on proposed projects for Mt. View Park.

Maxine Turbolski, Twp. resident, spoke concerning taxes.

Monica Gerrity, Twp. resident, questioned the earned income accounting. G. Schuster, Twp. Manager, noted he is working with Berkheimer Tax Administrator for better accounting of revenues.

Alex Grum, Twp. resident, asked if the Township would be spraying for gypsy moths. R. Wielebinski noted it was not considered for 2015.

BUDGET CONT:

B. Wise made a motion, seconded by R. Wielebinski, pursuant to Section 1701 of the First Class Township code, propose a budget as amended by the Township manager on 09/30/2014 and revised 11/24/2014; and give public notice of said Budget with final adoption to occur on a date to be determined in December. Roll call: P. Nish, yes; R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: R. Wielebinski made a motion, seconded by P. Nish, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. Roll call vote: R. Wielebinski, yes; J. Lastowski, yes; P. Nish, yes; and B. Wise, yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Finkbeiner
Secretary