

Board of Supervisors

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2011

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko

Also present: Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Officer Michael McDonald, Officer-in-Charge; John Oehler, Supervisor Elect; Rich Schilling, Township Manager; Jason Wager, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. She noted that the Board had an Executive Session to discuss land acquisition.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Old Business

1. 2012 Budget – The Board received an updated budget (dated 11/11/11) containing the following changes authorized at their 11/9/11 meeting:

1. Act 537 revenue projection of \$30,000 was removed,
2. A 2% salary increase for staff was added,
3. A \$15,000 donation was added for UBREMS, and
4. A one-mill tax increase was added.

Town Watch - There was discussion about giving a donation to the newly established Town Watch program, which is struggling financially. Their liability insurance is \$129 a month. They depleted the revenue transferred from the Farm Market with start-up costs (legal, cost of purchasing signs and posts to place throughout the community, etc.). Several contributions have come in, but not enough to cover the ongoing costs. While they are planning fund raising events for the spring and summer, it will be difficult for them to continue if they cannot meet the monthly costs for liability insurance.

The Board encouraged the Town Watch and the Township to work harder to communicate their organization, both financial needs and that people can now apply to patrol the Township, utilizing websites and other means available. Their primary communication to date was in the fall Township Newsletter. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize the Township Manager to investigate a lower Town Watch liability insurance rate and to fund the insurance for up to \$1,550 from the Highway Capital Fund. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. The Manager will request a profit and loss report from the Town Watch and encourage more communication so that residents can either sign up to patrol or contribute funds to underwrite the organization.

Discussion followed on various budget issues, which were discussed in depth at the November 9 meeting. A compilation of the various costs to underwrite emergency services revealed that the Township is currently supporting Township services at an amount equivalent to one and one-half tax mills out of the three and one-half tax mills currently in place. (The 2012 draft budget includes a one-mill increase, bringing the total Township millage to four and one-half mills.

Karen asked why the Board is again going over all the Board decisions made at the prior meeting. Volker is unhappy that the budget includes a one-mill tax increase. He feels the Township could eliminate the need for the tax increase by repairing only two miles of roads in 2012 instead of four miles and by removing the \$15,000 contribution to UBREMS, which would eliminate the need for the one-mill increase. Volker stated he received several phone calls from people who oppose a tax increase after they read the newspaper articles indicating the Board was considering a tax increase.

Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize advertisement of the 2012 budget of \$1,467,756, which includes a one-mill tax increase, and a projects a carry-over reserve to 2013 of \$26,782, for adoption at the December 13, 2011, meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long and Rob Zisko. Voting **No**: Volker Oakey. The motion **passed**.

Following advertisement and the 20-day period for public review of the draft budget, the Board will adopt the budget at their December 13, 2011, meeting. The Board's next meeting will be next Tuesday, November 22.

Public Comment - None

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics - Karen asked the Board whether they would like a representative from Newman Paperboard Recycling of Philadelphia to make a brief presentation at the December 13 meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that she should arrange this presentation for the early portion of the December 13 meeting.

The Board welcomed Jason Wager to the staff. Sandy Everitt commented that Jason is doing very well in the training period. Jason expressed that he is very happy to be part of the staff.

Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: November 17, 2011

Approved: December 13, 2011