Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

Special Meeting - October 2, 2014

Supervisors Present: Dave Long, Volker Oakey, John Oehler and Rob Zisko.
Also present: Rich Pursell (Road Master), Chief Michael McDonald, Michael Brown (Township Manager) and Jason Wager (Secretary/Treasurer)

Chairperson Zisko called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments on non-agenda items.

Old Business

Budget Discussion

The Board agreed it would target $250,000 as the unencumbered reserve balance it wanted to hold each year. All subsequent discussion about revenue and spending had to end up with that amount in a GF reserve.

The Board tentatively agreed it would need to raise the real estate tax rate (3 mills for 2015 was the figure most discussed, but not settled), and asked the staff to examine expenses within that parameter.

The Board wants to smooth the impact to the GF for large-scale projects in future years. For instance, it takes $120,000 in a given year for a paving project, so the Board wants to set aside GF money in Cap Reserve by $60,000/year rather than have all $120 hit at once. That principle applies to equipment replacement as well.

The Board directed that all equipment replacement would be done with "used" replacements (with the exception of small trucks), recognizing that used equipment will have a shorter lifespan and less salvage value than new.

There was discussion about whether the Township should (or can) establish a line of credit to provide needed capital on demand. Most loans the Township has taken in the past have been for a specified piece of equipment or project. A line of credit would be more open ended. The benefit to this approach would be to spread large outlays over a longer period and to have flexibility. The drawback is the cost of borrowing. The Board acknowledged it might be difficult to find loans for used equipment. The Township staff will investigate the pros and cons.

The Board discussed the various staffing options as described by Chief, and concluded it was highly desirous of keeping the Township's police service the same as it has been.

The Board discussed the benefits of various regionalizing initiatives:

Equipment sharing, police service and fire service. It concluded the Township may benefit from such initiatives, but they would take time to examine and foster and aren't a short-term solution to the immediate budget constraints.

The Board discussed the desirability of generating growth in the Township's designated development area. It concluded it would like to examine the creation of an Economic Development Committee to advise the Board on these topics, and the staff will draft an outline for the next meeting. Rob offered to help discuss sewer availability with Richland Twp & Quakertown Borough.

Public Comment

Debby Yerger, 1400 Peppermint Road, **Dennis Soltysiak**, 645 Povenski Road, and **Bryan Flack**, 1231 Passer Road, were all in favor of keeping the existing Police Department intact and possibly expand to provide more service.

Supervisor Comments

Mr. Oehler acknowledged everyone's comments and stated from a common sense standpoint, the Board must start somewhere with the budget. He stated he believes in the importance of safety and the Board must go through the budget process. Mr. Oehler noted he does not want to see any of the services go down.

Adjournment

At 9:22 p.m., Mr. Oakey **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason A. Wager
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: October 14, 2014
Approved: October 28, 2014