

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2022**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth O'Leary at 3:41 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President David J. Batdorf, Sam Kalbach, and William B. Miller. Also attending were Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James A. Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia Wylezik-Pfeiffer. Commissioner Lisha Rowe was absent.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

2023 BUDGET

A.) Fire Fund

Ms. Johnston requested a revised motion for the fire pumper based on a new lease agreement that includes upfitting at the facility, to save money.

ON REVISED MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE REVISED 10 YEAR/TURN BACK LEASE AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDES UPFITTING FOR THE PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER FOR \$815,817.00, AND ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.

Chief Beane explained that the purpose of having "sister" vehicles is to have operational efficiency and maintenance cost savings. They will have similar features and parts. The trucks will be rotated as much as possible to give even wear to both.

There was discussion about the proposed budget for 2023 which had been adjusted for higher costs and supply issues.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO INCREASE THE FIRE TAX MILLAGE FROM 1.23 TO 1.3 FOR 2023.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO BID THE FIRE STATION CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE NPDES PERMIT AND CONFIRMING THE AMPERAGE NEEDED FOR THE BUILDING.

B.) General Fund – Police Department

Chief Winchester presented the police department budget. He would like to increase the public relations line item to include help with recruiting through officers' attendance at events and promotional items. These items will also be used at a booth for Governor Mifflin Community Days.

Chief Winchester discussed that the department bought protective vests that will be partially reimbursed through a grant. The department needs 2 new radios and doesn't have any spares. These radios cost approx. \$8,000 each. It was decided that 3 new radios should be bought in 2023 so the department will have a spare.

C.) General Fund – Administration and Recreation

Ms. Johnston explained some increases for the 2023 administration budget. The allocations for legal services were increased due to vendor cost pass-through, contract negotiations for both unions in 2023, and the pending zoning map appeal. The contribution to the Mifflin Community Library was increased to \$39,500.00. The annual allocation of \$50,000.00 for the Wyomissing Creek Water Coalition was confirmed, in accordance with the existing agreement and ordinance.

Ms. Johnston reported to the Board about a codes apprentice program being considered by the Berks County Building and Codes Assoc. to address the shortage of local codes officials. The program has not yet been voted on by that group. If it is enacted, it may be of benefit to the Township since there is only 1 person in the Codes Department at present. This decision would be made after the BCBCA program is developed.

D.) General Fund – Revenue

There were changes to revenue projections for the General Fund from 2022 to 2023. The District Justice will no longer be renting the building in Cumru Township, so that item will be zero in 2023.

E.) Debt Service Fund

Ms. Johnston reminded the Board that a small increase in the 2023 debt service millage was projected last year to raise the appropriate revenue for the bond payment.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO INCREASE THE DEBT SERVICE MILLAGE FROM 0.700 TO 0.850 FOR THE 2023 BUDGET.

F.) Sewer Fund – update

Ms. Johnston reported that the Municipal Authority held their fall meeting later than usual so they did not meet before the sewer fund budget was discussed by the Board of Commissioners. The members of the Municipal Authority voiced concern about the amount that well customers with sanitary sewer would have to pay based on the proposed increase in the sanitary sewer fee to \$140/quarter for 2023. Well customers with sanitary sewer currently pay a bill based on a conversion factor of 1.4 which would translate to \$196/quarter for 2023. The Authority also wanted the Township to consider a different formula for all billing, such as a capital surcharge. Ms. Johnston requested that she be able to investigate these requests for the next scheduled

meeting of the Municipal Authority in January of 2023. The budget for the sewer fund can retain its revenue and expenditure estimates while the exact formula is considered. The Board agreed.

The Capital Fund budget will be discussed at the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 15, 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

A.) October meetings advertised in the Reading Eagle 09/27/2022

COMMISSIONERS

A) Reminders:

- 1) Board of Commissioners meetings for fall 2022
 - 11/15/2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
 - 11/29/2022 at 7:00 p.m. – 5th Tuesday Meeting

Note: Deadline for 2023 budget advertisement is 11/30/2022, for adoption on 12/20/2022.

- 2) Zoning Hearing Board – 11/16/2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Gov. Mifflin Intermediate School

B.) Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Secretary/Manager