

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2016**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth O’Leary at 6:10 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President Edward L. Gottschall, Sheri Hoover, and Lorri K. Swan. Tony J. Sacco was absent with prior notification to the Board. Also attending were Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Public Works James A. Beane, Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Recreation Director Samson Gausch, and Manager Jeanne E. Johnston.

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

2017 BUDGET

Sewer Fund

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that a draft sewer fund budget had been reviewed by the Municipal Authority on 10/13/2016. The Authority recommended that \$703,000 be transferred from the 803 fund to the 809 capital fund by 12/31/16. Of that amount, \$203,000 is to supplement the well metering project and \$500,000 is for capital construction projects in the 5-year plan. The Board concurred with this recommendation.

The Authority also recommended deferring the long range sewer rate plan for a year, keeping the rate the same for 2017, in light of the fact that the City of Reading has not begun the improvements on Fritz Island. The 2016 transfer to the Fritz Island escrow would still take place, but an additional escrow amount for 2017 would not be budgeted. The current escrow would be retained because it will be required at some point. Since the City recently bid the Fritz Island project again, the possibility of a rate increase in 2018 for the Fritz Island escrow will have to be considered late in 2017. The Board indicated that the sewer rate would not be increased for 2017.

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the funds deferred for the escrow would be used to fulfill the projects in the 5-year sewer plan. A 2017 capital transfer would include matching funds for the Old Lancaster Pike grant application. If the grant is not awarded, the Old Lancaster Pike project would be done in 2019, as originally scheduled.

Mrs. Carpenter informed the Board that several line items were being re-numbered, to be compliant with the state chart of accounts. The sick leave reimbursement amounts would be adjusted in November, to account for any time used by employees prior to the budget advertisement.

General Fund – Highway

Mr. McNichols provided information to the Board on proposed capital purchases in 2017.

1) Truck #77 replacement

Truck 77 is a 2001 model year Freightliner, 10 ton dump truck, with 46,500 miles. The truck has a stainless steel bed that is in relatively good condition, however, the remainder of the vehicle is rusting. The frame is showing the effects of 16 winters of plowing and salting. All

four sets of springs have been replaced and will need to be replaced again in the next few seasons. The following parts have been replaced due to rust: fuel tank, air tanks, all of the brake components front & rear and the horns. A few years ago the radiator and other cooling system parts were replaced. The truck has been used for winter maintenance, hauling, paving, leaf collection, and yard waste transport. It is proposed to replace the truck in 2017 with a 2018 model year, 108SD, Freightliner, 10-ton dump, at a quoted cost of \$154,663, but it is proposed that 35% should be paid out of the refuse fund because of its use for leaves and yard waste. The previous dump truck took 8 months to arrive after ordering.

1) Truck #67 replacement

Truck 67 is a 2004 model year, Ford F-450, 4-wheel drive with dual rear wheels and 46,000 miles. The truck is primarily used to pull the paint trailer and crack sealer. These tasks require the engine to idle for most of the work day. Ford states that 1 hour of idle time is equivalent to 25 miles of travel. Based on this rule of thumb, the vehicle has the equivalent mileage of 202,000. When the truck is set up for winter maintenance, it carries an adjustable v-plow and a drop-in salt spreader. It is very effective in parking lots and for opening roads.

In September 2016, a severe engine problem developed during line painting operations; further inspection revealed a hole in piston number 5. The cost of a new engine installed is about \$17,000. The bed of the truck also needs extensive repair to pass inspection, \$4,500. The condition of the bed was discussed during the 2016 budget process. The current inspection expired 9/30/16.

It is proposed that the truck will be replaced with a 2017 model year, Ford F-550, with a flat/stake bed. Replacement cost is quoted at \$57,117. After ordering, the replacement will take a few months to arrive. The absence of #67 would have a negative impact on snow removal efforts during the 2016/2017 season.

ON MOTION OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT VEHICLE FOR TRUCK 67 TO BE ORDERED.

Ms. Johnston informed the Board of several variables with respect to capital projects for the highway department:

- Truck 67 could be purchased with liquid fuels funds, rather than general funds.
- The lower parking lot on the east side of the campus has deteriorated. The worst area is in front of the police department. The public works liaisons recommend \$10,000 to be set aside for patching this area. Repair of the entire lower level, where the public comes in for Board meetings, is estimated at \$77,000. However, repair of all, or a large area, may be necessary because it is believed that there is no base under the parking lot. The paved area may crumble when patching is attempted. One option is to include this project as an alternate on the road work bids.
- A replacement tractor/mower is recommended; the estimated cost is \$142,000. One option is to lease/purchase this piece of equipment. A 7 year lease/purchase would have an annual cost of approximately \$22,000. Mr. Gottschall stated that he did not favor leases when the Township has the funds.

After all departmental budgets have been reviewed, the list of capital projects would also be reviewed to determine which options or cuts would be selected.

CORRESPONDENCE

A) Meeting Advertised in the Reading Eagle on 10/14/2016

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS
VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne E. Johnston
Assistant Secretary