

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
September 23, 2019 Preliminary Budget Meeting and Other Business**

Chairman Deck called this special meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. in the Municipal Building for the purpose of discussing the preliminary 2020 Budget and any other business. Those attending were Gary A. Deck, Richard Kramer, Lester Feick, Christy Flaherty, Heather Claman and Robbi Lane.

No audience was present.

The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

Correspondence

Municipal Breakfast has been rescheduled to Friday, October 25th from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. at the Mt. Pleasant Fire Company (Bernville, PA) – Does the Board wish to attend?

The Board discussed the invitation and agreed that they would all be attending.

Invitation from Senator Schwank to attend an informational event regarding Berks County water. The event will be held on Thursday, October 10th from 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Albright College McMillan Student Center. Dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. – Does the Board wish to attend?

The Board discussed the invitation and agreed they had no interest in attending.

Request from the Borough of Myerstown for Fire Police coverage for the Holiday Parade scheduled for Saturday, November 30th, with a rain date of Sunday, December 1st

Supervisor Feick made a motion to authorize Fire Police coverage for the Holiday Parade scheduled for Saturday, November 30th, with a rain date of Sunday, December 1st. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kramer and passed unanimously (3-0).

PSATS – Health Insurance Cooperative Trust – Ballot for Election of Trustees

The Board discussed the ballot and authorized Vice Chairman Kramer to sign the ballot.

Supervisor Feick made a motion authorizing Vice Chairman Kramer to sign the ballot. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kramer and passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed Teen Challenge and how the facility is affecting local emergency services providers within the Township and the types of calls being made to 911. Mrs. Lane advised that a meeting has been scheduled with Teen Challenge CEO Kris McFadden, Chief Kerschner (Tulpehocken Police), Chief Feick (Rehrersburg Fire Company) and Michael Bashore (Bethel Ambulance). The Board advised that they want to receive a monthly report identifying how much time the Police Department is spending on issues related to the facility; noting that the center does not contribute to the Township's tax base. They also discussed the facility hiring their own security. It was agreed that Chief Kerschner and Chief Feick would report back to the Board after the meeting.

REVIEW 2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGETS

Sewer Funds – The line item breakdown for each account was reviewed and discussed by the Board. They also discussed delinquent accounts and agreed not to increase the monthly sewer fee at this time. According to the proposed budget reviewed tonight the total expected revenues for 2020 is \$426,598. Expected expenses amounted to \$404,837, including the loan payments.

USDA Requirements – Mrs. Claman updated the Board with regards to the Township needing to be compliant with regards to the USDA requirements; she also provided various correspondences received over the years. She requested the Board to review the information for further discussion. Supervisor Feick and Vice Chairman Kramer reported that they would begin completing small requirements over the winter to bring the Township into compliance. The Board also discussed the roof leaking.

Township Funds – The line item breakdown for each account was reviewed and discussed by the Board. According to the proposed budget reviewed tonight the total expected revenues for all accounts (General, Street Light, Liquid Fuels, Building Maintenance, Recreation & P.T.O. Funds) in 2020, not including the sewer account, amounted to \$1,351,218. The total expenses for all accounts (General, Street Light, Liquid Fuels, Building Maintenance, Recreation & P.T.O. Funds) in 2020, not including the sewer funds, amounted to \$1,208,406. The Board discussed the County radios being paid off this year. Supervisor Feick proposed putting \$11,264 (the money that was budgeted for Fire Company radios) into a separate bank account for future replacement of fire company equipment, the money would be shared between the two (2) Fire Departments within the Township. The Board discussed the future of fire companies, noting that one day the Township's may be responsible for purchasing fire trucks. Chairman Deck commented that if that happens, the two (2) companies may need to consider merging. The Board also discussed the possibility of the County updating the radios again sometime in the future. Mrs. Lane inquired if the Board would like to increase the monthly charge for police services provided to Marion Township and the Tulpehocken Area School District. Mrs. Flaherty noted that she did increase the amount budgeted to be transferred into the Recreation Fund, budgeted a 3% increase to pay rates and budgeted for some overtime for the Police and Public Works Departments. She also advised on the need to purchase two (2) 5 drawer lateral file cabinets and provided prices from JDM Outlet (approximately \$879) and Staples (approximately \$921). The Board discussed the Township's current accounting system. They also discussed the increased amount budgeted for Road Crew wages. Supervisor Feick noted that amount includes bringing on another full time employee and that if the Township takes on the Rehrersburg Lions Club property the extra help will be needed. Chairman Deck commented with regards to the Township needing to have a website; noting that he would research what would be involved.

Chairman Deck made a motion to establish an Emergency Services Fund noting that \$11,264 will be put into that account in 2020. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kramer and passed unanimously with Supervisor Feick abstaining (2-0-1).

Vice Chairman Kramer made a motion to increase the fee charged to Marion Township and the Tulpehocken Area School District for Police services in 2020 by 4%. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Vice Chairman Kramer made a motion to authorize the purchase of two (2) 5 drawer lateral file cabinets for a cost of approximately \$879 each; the purchase will be made in 2019. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Supervisor Feick updated the Board with regards to pricing for a 40 X 60 X 16 pole barn with three (3) doors for the storage of Township equipment. He presented a quote from Wood Originals for approximately \$52,400 and advised on what's included in that price. He proposed that the funding would come from the Building Maintenance Fund. The Board discussed the location of the proposed building and the work that would be completed by the Public Works Department. Supervisor Feick also commented with regards to the Township purchasing a generator for running the buildings. They acknowledged that if the Township were to build a pole barn the project would need to be put out for bid. The Board agreed to discuss the matter further and put to vote at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Supervisor Feick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 P.M. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kramer and passed unanimously (2-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Flaherty

Secretary, Tulpehocken Township