

## **November 23, 2012 Preliminary Budget Meeting and Other Business**

Chairman John Kintzer called this special meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building for the purpose of discussion on the preliminary 2013 Budget and any other business. Those attending were John Kintzer, Rick Kramer, Gary Deck, Kathy Boltz, Heather Claman, Kris Kerschner, Lester Feick, and Robbi Lane. John Kintzer offered condolences to Gary Deck and his family for the recent loss of their Father.

### **Budget 2013**

**Sewer Funds** - The line item breakdown for each account was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Heather Claman reviewed the sewer accounts with the Board members. Total expected revenues for 2013 are \$324,720. Expected expenses amounted to \$322,724., including loan payments. It was agreed to send copies of the letter received from the muffin monster inspections to DEP. The Board also discussed the amount owed to the Township for delinquent sewer fees. It was agreed to seek council from the Solicitor on how to collect these funds and if this should be discussed in an executive session or in a public meeting. This topic will be placed on the December Board of Supervisors agenda.

Gary Deck made a motion to advertise the 2013 preliminary sewer budget available for public inspection. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion. The 2013 Budget will come before the Board at a special meeting to adopt the budget on December 17, 2012 meeting.

### **Other Business**

**Gerald Bashore Apartments** – Gerald Bashore's commercial units have been issued a Use and Occupancy permit for core and shell only. Prior to occupancy, additional permits are required to make sure that it is a permitted use. Commercial sewer fees are calculated by the type of business that occupies the commercial space. Mr. Bashore had submitted a letter requesting a waiver of the sewer user fees until they are occupied. The rules and regulations allow for billing to begin once the use and occupancy permit is issued. The Board decided to require Mr. Bashore to either winterize both units and have them inspected by a Township Representative to avoid paying user fees or pay the sewer user fees (1 edu per unit) for 6 months then request in writing relief of user fees. As this would then be considered long-term vacancies.

**Township Funds** - The line item breakdown for each account was reviewed and discussed by the Board. The Board discussed the police services that are being contracted to Marion Township and Strausstown Borough. Gary Deck made a motion to increase the annual bill for police coverage for Marion Township \$1000.00 and an increase of \$500.00 for Strausstown Borough. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote. Police Secretary will prepare a letter notifying the Board and Council Members of the increase.

There was discussion on the wages for the noncontract employees. Gary is not in favor of the usual 3% increase due to the economy, raises should be 1 – 1 ½ percent increase. John commented that the amount in the proposed 2013 budget can absorb the increase the Board can take care of the increase at reorganization.

The Board decided to purchase a steamer to clean and maintain road equipment. The approximate cost will be \$4000 – \$6000. Funds will be appropriated from the Recreation Board and from the carry over balance. Line item 409.260, shop tools and equipment was increased to \$9000.

Chief Kerschner commented that the Police Department is in need of a new printer and the approximate cost is \$400.00. Police Department will also be ordering new vests in 2013 that have been authorized at a previous meeting. Some other items needed are, battery backup for the computers, new uniforms, and the service fees for the Cody System. Chief Kerschner also reminded the Board the Nextel phones being used by the Township Police Department and Road Crew will be obsolete June 2013. Gary Deck made a motion to authorize Chief Kerschner to purchase a printer. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

The Board discussed the costs of the county radios. John commented that the Township should share the cost of the Fire Company radios not bear the costs and suggested we pay for the radios but cut the cost of the donations to the Fire Companies. Gary commented that the Fire Companies are very important and his desire is to continue to support them. Lester Feick, Fire Chief of Rehrersburg commented that the Rehrersburg Fire Company does not have the funds to pay for the radios. It was also discussed that Mt Aetna Fire Company is ordering radios for their Fire Police and that Rehrersburg is not ordering for their Fire Police. The radios are order and the promissory notes are processed so this cannot be changed. John is not agreement with radio order.

The next item discussed was road work for 2013. The approximate cost to scratch and overlay one mile of road is \$107,133. Road Master, Lester Feick suggested scratch and overlay on Teen Challenge Road where we left off and go the distance of 1 ½ miles 19 feet wide and 2" thick, this will cost approximately \$134,000. Feick also suggested scratch and overlay a short piece of Apple Street, in Mt Aetna, toward Yenser's property. The Township could do it themselves with the help of Reber Paving and reminded the Board that Hunsicker Lane was never finished. The Board agreed to do a road inspection after winter and then decide which roads to repair.

Gary Deck made a motion to take 25% of the carryover from 2012 and open a Building Fund for future building as the Board will see needed. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

Also reviewed, were the expected balances for the end of 2012, the 2013 expected receipts and expenses, and the expected account balances at the end of 2013. As proposed, the real estate tax rate will remain at 1.6 mills and the street light tax will remain at .75 per front foot to the property owners that are serviced by the street light.

John Kintzer made a motion to advertise the 2013 preliminary budget available for public inspection. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion. The 2013 Budget will come before the Board at a special meeting to adopt the budget on December 17, 2012 meeting.

The total expected receipts for all accounts in 2013, not including the sewer account, amounted to \$1,058,868. The total expenses for all account, not including the sewer funds, amounted to \$976,191.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Deck at 11:58 a.m., motion second by Rick Kramer. Upon a roll-call vote, all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy Boltz*

Secretary, Tulpehocken Township