

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2013

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Budget Workshop Meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2013, in the Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Waks reported there was no executive session prior to this meeting. He reported this is the fourth of four scheduled Budget Workshop meetings.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Greg Waks, and Carole Kenney. Also present were: Dave Kraynik, Township Manager; Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Nick Hiriak, Director of Finance, John Waters, Director, Safety and Codes. Supervisor Bill Jenaway and Supervisor Erika Spott were absent.

PROPOSED 2014 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. John Waters, Director, Safety and Codes Enforcement, provided an overview of the proposed 2014 Fire and Rescue Services Operating Budget. Highlights as follows:

- Overall increase of 1.8%
- \$40,000 for Length of Service Program – no increase
- Fire Company Aid – increase of \$13,630 or 3.1%
- No change for the \$50,000 allocation for Lafayette Ambulance – this is reimbursement for Workers Compensation and 3.5% increase to volunteer fire companies
- Firemen's Relief Fund increased 16%
- Other Professional Services decreased \$46,000 or 76.7%

PROPOSED 2014 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGET

Highlights as follows:

- Replace Chief's car 317 for Lafayette Ambulance at \$52,000
- Replace Ambulance 317-2 at \$112,000
- Replace Swedesburg and Swedeland's fire chiefs' cars.

- 800 mhz radio system - joint effort with Bridgeport – complete replacement of the entire County infrastructure
- \$10,000 budgeted for unanticipated repairs to fire apparatus and \$5,000 for Alpha numeric pagers

Mr. Waks emphasized the volunteer emergency services provide an enormous economic benefit for the Township. Mr. Waters noted the volunteer system provides a savings to the Township of about \$8 million a year.

#### PROPOSED 2014 OPERATING BUDGET FOR SAFETY AND CODES

Mr. Waters discussed the proposed 2014 Operating Budget for Safety and Codes. Highlights as follows:

- Overall increase of 3.1% -- all costs are covered by permit fees
- Tuition Reimbursement increased \$2,000 or 8.7%
- Workers Compensation increased \$405 or 4.4%
- Codes Purchase increased \$3,000 or 150%
- Office Supplies decreased \$500 or 18.5%
- Other Professional Services increased \$5,000 or 29.4%
- Travel/Food Expense decreased \$750 or 50%
- Equipment Depreciation increased \$11,850 or 110%
- Training and Education decreased \$500 or 25%
- Miscellaneous decreased \$250 or 25%

Mr. Waks pointed out after considering mandatory expenses such as salaries and associated items, very little discretionary funds remain. Mr. Waters noted with the proposed budget 4.54% remains as discretionary. The other costs are either personnel at 84.82% or allocated at 10.64%.

#### PROPOSED 2014 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR SAFETY AND CODES

Mr. Waters stated Capital Budget is all equipment replacement. There is some money for furniture replacement and the radio system; the rest is for replacing vehicles, through COSTARS, once the Public Works Department provides a vehicle condition report. Currently being considered is a Chevy Volt for the property maintenance officer and a CNG Ford pickup when available.

#### PROPOSED 2014 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Tom Nolan discussed the proposed 2014 operating budget for the Police Department. Highlights as follows:

- Personnel Services increased 3.8%
- Health and Accident increased 9.5% due to premium increases for younger officers moving to couples or family plans

- Tuition Reimbursement decreased \$7,812 or 12.5%
- Operating Supplies increased 11% due to three new hires (total cost to equip an officer is \$5,400; Bike Unit Uniforms also added in)
- Traffic Calming Equipment is a new account in 2014
- Community Relations increased \$3,500 or 77.8% due to expanded activities
- Other Professional Services decreased 45.1%
- Radio Maintenance increased \$55,794 or 72.9%
- Vehicle maintenance decreased 6.3% mainly due to reduced labor costs at the garage.
- Dues/Subscriptions increased \$1,424 or 85.3%
- Training increased \$10,270 or 53.4%
- Equipment Depreciation increased \$179,875 or 110%

### PROPOSED 2014 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Nolan discussed the 2014 Capital Budget for the Police Department. Highlights as follows:

- Weapons/Police Equipment: listed as Priority 4 for a total of \$7,000 (some equipment is being secured through grants)
- Information Technology: PTZ Camera at Route 202 and N. Gulph Road for \$20,000 and Total Station upgrades for \$5,000
- Replace Office Furniture for \$2,000
- Replace Communication Equipment: Server for Radio System for \$60,000 (contingency if needed)
- Replace Weapons/Police Equipment for \$2,000
- Replace Information Technology Equipment for \$8,000
- Replace Miscellaneous Capital Projects for \$21,000 (\$10,000 for Township Building cameras and \$11,000 to replace video arraignment system – contingency if needed)
- Replace Patrol Car Equipment for \$29,000 (for vehicle changeovers, new roof lights and new siren box)
- Replace Mobile Data Computers for a total of \$45,000 (if needed)
- Replace Vehicles for a total of \$160,000 (CNG vehicles are not in service yet for police vehicles)
- Pistol Range waterproofing/hardware repairs for \$5,000 (if needed)

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the workshop meeting at 5:46 p.m. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
SECRETARY-TREASURER/  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: