

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRAURY 26, 2022
8:00 AM

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 8:00 a.m. Committeemen Dennis, Pelura, Dowe, Bomba and Brown were present. Also present at this meeting were K. Mitchell-CMFO, A. Venuto- Deputy Township Clerk, A. Davis-Treasurer. The meeting was also held Virtual.

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order, he read the **Opening Public Meeting Act**. Mayor Brown led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and roll call was taken.

Ms. Mitchell started by going over who was attending this meeting. She asked Ms. Davis to go over the spread sheet for salary and wages for requested increases for the Police Dept. Ms. Mitchell reminded the committee that \$66,534 increase equals to a one cent tax increase. Mr. Pelura questioned the ranks as being wrong. He was told the amounts were correct that were given in the report. Mr. Pelura asked where were we on Police negotiations. He wanted to know what are we going to request. The Committee discussed this further. It was brought up about Police Lieutenants losing their longevity when they get promoted and how it was handled in the past. Overtime was discussed and the need for additional officers. Would like to have two full time and two part-time SLEO officers. Options were given on how to save money.

At the last meeting the Chief requested the Police Clerk to get an increase. He suggested \$22.00 an hour from here \$16.00. Ms. Mitchell suggested making her salaried instead of hourly. This would save on her overtime. She suggested changing the title of her job. Also Ms. Mitchell suggested to call around to see how other municipalities handle this job.

Next, the Committee reviewed the Police vehicle list. It was stated they receive two new vehicles almost every year. UCC gave them two vehicles this year also. Mr. Pelura said the Chief requested a pick-up truck. The Mayor feels this is a want and is not necessary due to the cost. He said the Explorer should be ok. The Chief commented the Explorer's seats don't fold down and it would last longer because it would not be used every day. Mr. Dowe said a truck can not be put in the rotation. Chief VanNamee said it would be put in as a regular police vehicle, it will be fully equipped. This would not be any different than having two cars. Ms. Mitchell mentioned the Fire Dept will not be receiving a car due to car/truck purchase.

Ms. Mitchell reviewed the Finance Budget. Mr. Dowe asked if the Township keeps a record of computers and equipment. She said yes. Mr. Bomba asked about software upgrades. She said when needed. Mr. Dowe said this is good information and will help the budget. Ms. Mitchell said Ashley the new Deputy Treasurer has some good recommendations from working at the County such as automatic check sign, elimination of hand signatures to avoid delays. Mr. Bomba discussed the legal side of not having hard copies.

Ms. Mitchell brought up the Administrator position. The position currently pays \$40,000 per year for part-time. Mayor Brown said the salary needs to be increased but will discuss at a later time. Mr. Dowe said this should be checked for competitiveness. Ms. Mitchell said Mrs. Proffitt, Clerk is working on getting salary ordinances from around the County.

The budget for Mayor and Council was not discussed.

The Tax Collector's budget was discussed next. Ms. Mitchell said the Shared Service Agreement with Penns Grove has not been signed yet. Mr. Dennis commented the increase in equipment is justified due to needing a new folding machine. The Committee all agreed.

The Mayor discussed the purchase of a new Fire Truck. He said there is a fire truck being auctioned and this included what they are looking for. He said it is not a direct buy as they thought but He reached out to the Mayor of the Township selling the truck to see if a deal could be reached. The other members asked for detailed on the fire truck. The Mayor gave what he knew. Ms. Mitchell discussed where the funds should be pulled from for the fire truck. She will check with our Auditor before making any final decisions. The Mayor asked the Committee what they were willing to bid if it goes to auction. The following discussion was on how long the Fire Dept would keep and use it, how much it would cost to letter it and any repairs needed. Mr. Pelura agreed with the Mayor, talk to the other Mayor to see what can be done if not get the auction details and decide price we want to pay.

Recreation was discussed by Mr. Dowe. No changes were made. Ms. Mitchell discussed Legal and Engineer. Mr. Pelura questioned the \$61,000 bill from Sickels regarding the dog park parking lot. He only asked for the lines to be changed not a whole new parking lot. It was stated Sickels did what his bill says but not what was requested. The bill should be paid out of Legal not the Dog Park fund. Ms. Mitchell will change the allocation. Mayor Brown said moving forward we better make sure we get clarification wit all future projects.

Next was the discussion of the Public Works budget. Mr. Santogrossi, Manager of Public Works took a seat at the table to discuss his budget. He suggested moving the health insurance from 30 days to 90 days due to turnovers. He mentioned the cost of CDL classes has climbed to \$5,000. Mr. Santogrossi suggested not everyone coming in get CDL Certified. It was asked about the Union. Mr. Santogrossi said the Union should help pay for the classes. He said if we have to pay for people to take the CDL classes then a contract must be signed for longevity with Carneys Point or take payment out of each pay check until paid off. He said there has been a lot of turnovers and this is a lot to pay. There was discussion on reasons for turnovers in Public Works.

Mayor Brown addressed a Shared Service with the County for road brine. He thought it was a good idea. Mr. Santogrossi said no, we would need new equipment to spread brine and it damages vehicles and the roads. Mr. Santogrossi discussed that he did not put in any Capital Requests due to not being able to get quotes. This was due to supply chain issues. Mr. Pelura asked if he could think of anything Public Works could use or get from the warehouse PILOT agreements. Mr. Santogrossi said maybe CDL classes but not justifiable for that. How about an education fund. Mr. Santogrossi said Amazon is very responsive to helping the community so maybe discuss it with them. Mrs. Proffitt arrived to meeting, 10:15 AM.

Mr. Santogrossi said he is taking the classes for the Recycling Coordinator. We currently use Woodstown for our Recycling Coordinator. Under Buildings and Grounds house cleaning was discussed. Looking for a company to clean at night. Also, Mr. Santogrossi discussed adjusting his budget so someone can work on the weekend in the summer for Recreation. Perhaps two hours a day twice a weekend. Friday and Monday can be handled by Public Works staff. Discussed this arrangement from May to October. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Santogrossi will work on the Cleaning Services and cost for Township, Public Works and Fire House.

Parks and Playgrounds was discussed. End of June the playground will be demolished. Mr. Pelura asked if anything had been mulched yet. Don't do because of demo of playground equipment. There is a grant for Dunns Park but we will not know until end of this year.

For roads, Mr. Santogrossi said he would like to see both ends of Robinson Road paved. With no more questions Mr. Santogrossi said he would like to ask for a salary increase. He has been here for five years and doing a good job. He does everything for both Penns Grove and Carneys Point. He is getting the Recycling Coordinator License. He suggested a \$20,000 increase. He mentioned when the negotiations were going on for Public Works Shared Service he was not included. With no more questions for Mr. Santogrossi he left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2022-76

Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Dowe and a unanimous vote was taken. Regular session ended at 10:27 AM.

A motion was made by Mr. Bomba to reconvene in regular session, seconded by Mr. Dennis and all was in favor. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:58 AM.

Mr. Dowe left the meeting at 11:15 AM.

The Committee continued with the budget review. Computers was reviewed, Audit, Grants and Industrial Commission. Most are being kept at the same rate as last year. In Grants Ms. Mitchell will speak to our Grant writer to see what is coming up so there is enough money available. Mr. Pelura asked about the money from the sale of the Babe Ruth Field. Is that staying with the Industrial Commission. This money could keep then funded for a few years. The Committee all agreed. COAH and Insurance was discussed.

The budget review was completed for this meeting and the next meeting was discussed.

Mayor Brown moved on to **Public Participation:** With no public questions or comments this portion was closed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bomba to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dennis. Motion passed with four affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 pm.

3-16-2022
Approved:


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk