

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2023
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 Bomba, Brown, Dennis, Shaw and Pelura were present. Also present at this meeting were C. Ehret-CMFO, B. Kelly-Finance Clerk, J. Proffitt-Township Clerk.

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

Mayor Pelura asked Chief VanNamee to address the Comcast connection to the Annex. He said Comcast came out and said they would need to install a pole and run the lines from there for the Annex to get cable. This is for the Emergency Management Office to have cable in the office.

Mrs. Ehret said she has the changes made since the last meeting. She started with the changes to the Capital list. She said the total for the ARP money came to 327,200. There is only 306,316.65 to spend. This is a difference of about 21,000. Mrs. Shaw suggested to remove the hand tools for 5,500. The HVAC came up for the Fire Dept. Mayor Pelura said he does not know what is wrong with it and that he does not have a proposal to have it fixed or replaced yet. The Mayor asked about the number of AED's we are getting. The Police Chief asked for six, one for each vehicle and there were three for the ambulances. The Police had two Patrol vehicles on the list. Chief VanNamee said it will cost approximately 10,000 more. The Committee added the money to the line item. The Chief also suggested adding additional money to the Fire Department truck. The Committee added an additional \$8,000 to that line.

After adding up the changes the Mayor and Committee started moving items around to get closer to what they have to spend. The Committee said they can split the parking lot expansion up into two years. That would cut the cost in half to \$32,500. This will be for tree removal and electric. Mayor Pelura said to move the electric sign for Dunns Park to capital. Mrs. Ehret reviewed with the Committee the Capital Improvement Fund as being \$200,000. She said this amount can be brought down to help the budget amount. After some discussion this amount was brought down to \$100,000. Mayor Pelura asked about the Master Plan and how to pay for this project. Mrs. Ehret said it could be charged as an Emergency cost and paid off over a five year period. This is the same as a Revaluation. She did mention that the CoGen will be going away next year and the Township will loss \$1,000,000. The PILOTs were discussed. Mayor Pelura said we need to get a list together for them. He said to show the residents that the warehouses are helping he suggested making the tax rate 2.5%. The Committee all felt that was a good amount. Mrs. Proffitt stepped away from the meeting. Mrs. Kelly took notes in her place. That would leave the surplus a little more than 2 million. For a home assessed at 145,518 it would be an increase of \$36.50.

During discussions the Committee talked about the cost of comcast in the OEM office. A switch can be installed from our Computer Consultant, this would allow RoKo for the weather channel. He would also need a smart tv.

April 5th the Budget will be introduced.

He said he needed to know what is not working with the HVAC at the Fire Department. He said it will have to be fixed and if needed replaced next year. He said of the two computers there, they only need to have one software update. The update will be done on Tuesday.

Mr. Bibeau Executive Director for the Industrial Commission discussed the request for the Master Plan to be updated. He said the Townships Master Plan is out dated. Warehouses need our approval if Master Plan is up to date. If not, they can bully us and then do it anyway. Creating a Town center would be on the plan and show it as Zoning for retail. He mentioned that Carneys Point/Penns Grove is #20 on the State food desert site. He spoke of the COAH obligation not being met. Mr. Bibeau mentioned Night Owl Company bought a lot of property in Oldmans and there is no redevelopment clause. We want to prevent problems coming from warehouses. This Township needs a total Master Plan redo or modification. They should be done every 10 years anyway. He asked if the cost could be put off on the warehouses that are coming.

Mrs. Proffitt returned. Mr. Bibeau moved on to discuss Dimension Renewable Energy (Solar). They have a lease agreement with Trek and the warehouse on N. Golfwood Ave. They are requesting a resolution of support from the Township. Mayor Pelura said Mr. Bibeau asked what can they do for us. Mr. Bibeau said they will give the Township a \$20,000 donation. Mr. Bibeau said the Township will have no responsibility with this project of company. This agreement is for the two warehouses only. He said if others want in there will be separate agreements. He mentioned them holding informational meetings for the public. If anyone signs up, they will be able to donate \$200.00 dollars to any department at the Township. What ever department gets the most donations will receive an additional \$5,000. Mayor Pelura said the resolution is being done by Mr. Avedissian for Wednesdays meeting. He also mentioned they will be the speaker at our local Government Dinner.

Under Correspondence, Mayor Pelura mentioned a letter from the Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional School District on their 2023-24 Budget. He said the Committee is all allowed to attend but we cannot conduct Township business there.

There was a quick review of the Capital and what is being spent with the ARP monies. Mayor Pelura said at Wednesday's meeting all the Professionals will be attending from the Sewerage Authority and some from the Township. He also asked the CFO to attend. Mrs. Shaw said she will be away on that day. The Committee discussed the resignation letter from Ashley Crist Treasurer. Mr. Brown accepted the resignation seconded by Mr. Dennis. All were in favor. Mayor Pelura said he would like this advertised as soon as possible. Mr. Brown brought up the fine for the Registrar for old information on our website. Mayor Pelura said this will be discussed by Mr. Avedissian at Wednesday's meeting.

Mayor Pelura 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. Brown to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bomba. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

4-5-2023
Approved:


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk