

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LOWER SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019 AT 6:30 PM IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1500 DESIRE AVENUE, FEASTERVILLE, PA 19053

Roll Call: Ray Weldie  
Edward Shannon  
Kim Koutsouradis  
Keith Wesley  
Deborah Kaplan

Staff: Joseph Galdo, Township Manager/Finance Director  
Mike Pennington, Lieutenant  
Matt Gilbert, Park & Recreation Director  
Jeff Bartlett, Zoning Officer  
Bill Oettinger, Fire Marshal  
Christina Lynn, Township Administrative Assistant

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Budget meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Police - 01

Mr. Galdo stated that the 2020 budget includes 32 police officers including the SRO. The holiday pay, overtime, and longevity are built into the collective bargaining agreement with the union. Mr. Galdo explained that the health insurance rates have remained stable. PSATS Unemployment and cost of school training have increased for 2020.

Mr. Galdo stated that the crossing guards will receive a \$.25 increase in January and a \$.50 increase six months later so that their pay rate is closer to what crossing guards are paid in neighboring municipalities. Mr. Galdo said that the Neshaminy School District has been notified of this increase since they contribute 50% of their salary.

Lieutenant Pennington explained the increase in 2020 for Minor Equipment and Computer Expenses. In 2020, the Police would like to purchase three notebooks, Office 365 upgrade, a heavy-duty printer, and the ID card system. In 2020, the computer expenses will include Cellebrite, and Power DMS, which will assist with the accreditation process.

Mr. Galdo explained some of the general expenses proposed for 2020 in the Police Department including Enduro equipment if we do not receive the RDA money for the bikes and new flooring is needed in the station. Mr. Galdo explained that if the Police do not receive the RDA grants, then the Township will have to purchase two Police vehicles. Discussion ensued regarding the type of bike the Police should purchase.

Mr. Weldie asked Mr. Galdo why the 2017 total Police budget was \$5.8 million and the 2020 budget has increased to \$7.24 million – other than the SRO what caused this increase. Mr. Galdo responded that the pension and the collective bargaining agreement have increased the budget; as well as, hiring two additional officers.

Recreation – 05

Mr. Gilbert stated that overall 2019 was a good year with good revenue. Mr. Gilbert explained that the Parks & Recreation Board has made the recommendation to change the rates for the summer camp program. Mr. Gilbert stated that over the last few years, residents of 19053 and Upper Southampton paid the resident rate. The Park & Recreation Board recommend limiting the resident rate to Lower Southampton Township residents only. All other campers would pay the non-resident rate, which is slightly higher.

Mr. Gilbert explained some of the increases to expenditures for 2020. The increase to the payroll program is shared with the Dolphin Swim Club, purchasing new games for the camp programs, and planting and/or removing trees throughout the parks system.

Mr. Gilbert stated that some capital improvements are needed in 2020; specifically, the pool at Ferderbar that needs new pool tiles and coping. Mr. Gilbert said he will get bids for this work.

Mr. Galdo pointed out that Mr. Gilbert has done a great job at whittling away each year at the deficit in the reserve for Park & Recreation. Since 2017, Mr. Gilbert has reduced the deficit.

#### Dolphin Fund - 14

Mr. Gilbert pointed out that in 2014, the deficit for the Dolphin Fund was at \$277,000 and by the end of 2020, the deficit is estimated to be at only \$51,000.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the Dolphin generated revenue in 2019 but there were several patrons that disregarded safety, the facility, and other patrons. As a result, the Park & Recreation Board recommend that the Dolphin be open to only season passholders and their guests. Mr. Gilbert explained that the Dolphin will have more information and control over who enters the facility. Season passes will be available at a resident rate and a non-resident rate. There will be a daily rate for guests of the passholders. Mr. Gilbert said that this will hurt the revenue but our goal is to get back to being a club that is a safe, fun and family-friendly environment. Mr. Gilbert said that he and his staff will work diligently to getting the word out to all past and present season passholders.

Mr. Gilbert explained that the 2019 Parks & Recreation Camp Rental transfer from the Parks & Recreation Fund to the Dolphin Fund was \$59,887 – 35% compared to 50% in past years. This amount takes into consideration the utilities, swim management, club maintenance, housekeeping, and general supplies and splits the cost between the camp and the swim club and transfer over to revenue under the Parks & Rec Camp Rental line item.

Ms. Kaplan asked Mr. Gilbert about hiring security guards. Mr. Gilbert stated that he would need to do an RFP for hiring a security firm. With only allowing season passholders, we have all the personal information on the patrons and there will be accountability that we lacked with the daily passes.

Ms. Kaplan asked if weekend only passes will be made available. Mr. Gilbert responded that it has been discussed and we can look further into it.

Mr. Gilbert stated that the Dolphin will still allow private parties. They will be changing the ground rules regarding guests but the Party Agreement will be very clear and reviewed by the Solicitor.

Mr. Gilbert explained the Swimming Pool Maintenance increase is due to the additional week of summer this year because Labor Day is 9/7/2020. Opening day will be 5/23/2020.

Mr. Gilbert explained that the Capital Improvements needed for the Dolphin include new tables, concrete work, and a sand filtration system for the baby pool.

Mr. Gilbert assured the Board of Supervisors that he and the Park & Recreation Board will be actively monitoring the revenue for the swim club in a proactive way.

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Ioakim Koutsouradis, Secretary

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVED THESE MINUTES AT THEIR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019.**