

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LOWER SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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
Jeff Bartlett, Zoning Officer
Bill Oettinger, Fire Marshal
Matt Gilbert, Parks & Recreation Director
Christina Lynn, Township Administrative Assistant

Budget meeting called to order at 6:26 pm

Fire Companies

Steve Brookes and Vince Doyle of Lower Southampton Fire Department were present to discuss their request for the Township to allocate more money and a millage increase for the fire companies. Mr. Galdo stated that he adjusted the budget with a millage increase he took out of the Debt Services Fund. The millage was increased to .155 from .125 – this gives each fire company an additional allocation of \$20,000. Also, the stipend was increased by \$2,000 each firehouse to bring it up to \$17,000. Mr. Galdo stated this is the best he can do with the millage parameters we have. Mr. Brookes said they are appreciative of any amount they can receive from the Township but would have liked to receive the full 3 mills they requested because of the high cost of their trucks and equipment. Mr. Galdo suggested that for future RDA grant submissions, the Board of Supervisors change the parameters and we rotate each year between Lower Southampton Fire Department, Feasterville Fire Department, and Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad in conjunction with the Township's needs for bigger ticket items.

Operating Reserve Fund - 95

Mr. Galdo stated this fund acts as a contingency fund for the General Fund. Mr. Galdo said he doubts there will be a need for a transfer in 2020; however \$275,000 is there as a placeholder if needed. It is projected that this fund will end 2020 with a balance of \$1.5 million.

Fire/Rescue/Debt Service Funds

Mr. Galdo stated that he decreased the millage in the Debt Service Fund which will allow for all three emergency services agencies to receive an increase – two fire companies and the rescue squad. Mr. Galdo stated that the Township only represents 7% of the whole real estate tax bill. We receive a minimal amount compared to the County and the school district.

Capital Reserve Fund - 30

Mr. Galdo said this fund is for capital asset purchases. Mr. Galdo explained that since we do not know if we are receiving any RDA grant money, he has a zero under Local Government Grants in revenue. Mr. Galdo explained some of the purchases that may be made in 2020 – on the administration side, technology and the yearly payments for the Fire Marshal Office, Police Department, Fire and Rescue Companies radios and on the police side, two vehicles, two motorbikes, and watchguard cameras will be purchased. Mr. Galdo stated \$20,000 has been allocated for Parks & Recreation for the parks and technology needs at the Dolphin Swim Club. Mr. Galdo stated that if we receive no RDA grant money, then this fund will end the year with \$93,791.

General Fund - 01

Mr. Galdo said the General Fund includes all the operating departments we have been discussing at the Budget Work Shops. Mr. Galdo stated that this fund takes into consideration the collective bargaining agreements and potential raises up to a 5% for department heads. The Board of Supervisors will make their decision for salary increases in January. This fund started the year with \$3.7 million at 4.35 millage. Mr. Galdo shifted the millage to 4.85 for the 2020 budget to cover certain increases like the library. Mr. Galdo stated that the Township should exceed 2019 revenue projections for public safety earnings. This includes accident reports, building permits, and inspections.

Mr. Galdo reviewed each department's expenses. Mr. Galdo stated that under Culture-Recreation, he added the Summer PASS program donation to the Neshaminy School District for \$5,000 as we did this past year. Contributions to the Neshaminy Senior Center and Fourth of July parade are also included. Mr. Galdo stated that in 2019 there were no serious workers comp injuries in the Police department so the \$40,000 budgeted in appropriation will sit there for 2020 just in case.

Mr. Galdo stated that we will continue to mitigate costs wherever we can by monitoring operations and personnel.

Ioakim Koutsouradis, Secretary