

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LOWER SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020 AT 6:30 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE

Roll Call: Ray Weldie
Deborah Kaplan
Edward Shannon
Kim Koutsouradis
Susan Cummings

Staff: Joseph Galdo, Township Manager/Finance Director
Frank Dillon, Solicitor
Ted Krimmel, Chief of Police
Mike Italia, Zoning Officer
Matt Gilbert, Park & Recreation Director
Ryan Smith, Acting Fire Marshal
Mark McDonnell, Public Works Director
Peter Kim, Assistant Finance Director/Assistant Public Works Director
Steve Brookes, Fire Chief for Lower Southampton Fire Department
Dave Walter, Fire Chief for Feasterville Fire Department
Christina Lynn, Township Administrative Assistant

Budget meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Fire Protection Fund (03):

Mr. Galdo stated that for the 2021 budget, there is a placeholder for \$155,000 for each fire company plus \$17,000 for each fire company for recruitment. Mr. Galdo said, per our last conversation, Feasterville Fire Department is receiving \$53,205 and Lower Southampton is receiving \$47,706 towards capital purchases. Additionally, the Township will be paying the last payment for the fire companies emergency radios after seven years. Mr. Galdo stated that the Township is also paying for the workers compensation insurance for the fire companies - \$26,00 past year. Mr. Galdo requested that the Fire Chiefs provide a quarterly report of their staff so that it can be reported to the workers compensation insurance carrier. Mr. Galdo said the budget for 2021 is basically the same as 2020.

Chief Walter asked Mr. Galdo when the millage changed from 1.25 to 1.55. Mr. Galdo answered it changed in 2020. Mr. Galdo said since 2017, the Township has progressively giving the fire companies an increase on the expenditure side. Mr. Galdo said it is his intention to keep it at 1.55 mills.

Street Lighting Fund (02):

Mr. Galdo said for the end of 2020, we are predicting to a fund balance around \$104,000. Mr. Galdo said the millage will stay at .75 for 2021. Mr. Galdo stated that he is keeping the line item for maintenance will remain at \$27,750. The Street Lighting Expense for PECO will have a placeholder of \$160,500. Mr. Galdo said we should end the year with a positive result of \$12,863. Mr. Galdo said the Street Lighting Fund is staying robust.

Hydrant Fund (06):

Mr. Galdo said the Hydrant Fund will end 2020 with \$6,107. The hydrant fees from Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority are projected to be \$975 in 2021. Mr. Galdo stated the fund should end 2021 with approximately \$5,132. Mr. Galdo said the Hydrant Fund is reliable and viable.

Chief Brookes asked if Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority will be replacing the hydrants in the Township. Mr. Smith said they are replacing them slowly but he does not know their timeline. Mr. Galdo requested that Chief Brookes supply him with a letter that he can take to Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority.

General Obligation Fund (20):

Mr. Galdo explained that this fund is for the other capital items like property improvements – lighting at Russell Elliott Memorial Park, the Township building, Dolphin improvements. Mr. Galdo said there is a \$1,000,000 line item for the re-engineering of the two areas at the Dolphin Swim Club. There is a reserve of \$785,000 for paving and \$1,265,000 for drainage projects. Mr. Galdo explained that there are reserves for Playwicki improvements (roof, pavilion) and vehicles if needed. Mr. Galdo said COVID slowed things up this year in spending this money but we have gained some interest. Mr. Galdo said we will spend this money down over the next two years.

Ms. Kaplan asked if the roof for Playwicki is on the farmhouse. Mr. Galdo said it includes all structures at the farm. Ms. Kaplan asked if we are building a pavilion. Mr. Galdo answered that there is a stone foundation off to the side that we would like to improve so we can hold events there.

Debt Service Fund (23):

Mr. Galdo explained over the course of his tenure, he has tried to develop this fund to make sure that it is robust enough to handle the Township's future needs. Mr. Galdo said we have been successful in that. This fund has gone from a 6.65 millage down to 6.10. Mr. Galdo explained that by us building a reserve here, he was able to move millage to other funds as the Township sees fit. Right now, the fund is projected to end 2020 with a reserve of \$159,000. Mr. Galdo stated that in 2021, the Township has an obligation of \$1.27 million to be paid. Mr. Galdo projected that at the end of 2021, the fund will end with a balance of \$43,000 in reserve. Mr. Galdo stated that after next year, the millage may need to be adjusted back up slightly for 2022. Mr. Galdo said the good news is that for a Township, we have a low debt load which is remarkable for our size. Mr. Weldie asked if this goes towards our bond. Mr. Galdo said this is all revenue bonds and notes.

Edward Shannon, Secretary