

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Chairman Kujawa in the Assembly Room of the Millcreek Township Municipal Building. Present were Gerald Wolf, Joseph Kujawa, Richard Figaski, Brian McGrath, Evan Adair, Esq., Phyllis Vollbrecht, Sheryl Williams and Richard Morris, P.E.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Chairman Kujawa wished everyone a Happy New Year, and then called for public comment on agenda items other than development or rezoning applications. No comments were received.

It was moved by Mr. Figaski, seconded by Chairman Kujawa and carried 2-0 to approve the minutes of the Board's December 10, 2013 meeting. Mr. McGrath was absent from that meeting.

It was moved by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Figaski and carried 2-0 to approve the minutes of the Board's December 23, 2013 meeting. Chairman Kujawa was absent from that meeting.

It was moved by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Figaski and carried to approve payment of the weekly General Fund bills in the amount of \$564,451.06, and the Performance and Surety Bond Account in the amount of \$162,200.10.

Chairman Kujawa asked Treasurer Wolf to present the proposed 2014 General Fund Budget for approval. Treasurer Wolf stated that the 2014 Preliminary Budget indicates a tax increase of one mill to balance the budget. The ending fund balance at the end of 2014 with the one mill increase would be \$3,235,117.00. (One mill equals approximately \$3,500,000.)

Mr. Figaski questioned whether the proposed budget included \$100,000 for the renovation of the Millcreek Golf Course. Treasurer Wolf stated that it did not. Chairman Kujawa asked whether this budget included \$20,000 for Senior Health Care. Treasurer Wolf responded that it did. Mr. McGrath stated that two proposed budgets were prepared, and felt that \$100,000 should remain in the budget for the renovation of the Millcreek Golf Course and Learning Center, especially since the township has already spent \$16,500 obtaining an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permit to do the renovations and the citizens are aware of these plans.

Mr. Figaski stated that he believes this project will no longer be a credible venue as a learning center, but feels that other options could be implemented without a substantial cost to the township and still meet the criteria of the EPA permit. He feels that the driving range, putting and chipping greens should stay.

Mr. McGrath responded by saying that the \$100,000 estimate was given by two experienced golf experts, Stan Marchaus and Steve Crane, and that the golf course needs one new hole to be completely rebuilt, one new green, the irrigation system to be rebuilt, and maintenance of approximately sixty to seventy acres. Mr. McGrath would prefer to see this project finished, as the township will eventually break even and perhaps bring in revenue, rather than create a new park, for example, which would be a maintenance expense to the taxpayers without bringing in any revenue.

Mr. Figaski stated that the township should first meet its basic needs, such as roadways and safety, and then smaller needs, such as the golf course. He said he would support the golf course project if there would be no cost to the township, but he cannot justify this project in a year when taxes are being raised one mill.

Chairman Kujawa agreed with Mr. Figaski, but stated his objection to spending \$42,000 for an automated telephone system, as he feels that people want a personal contact when calling about

a problem or issue. He questioned how the Board can justify this budget when General Electric and other businesses are laying off hundreds of people, and stated that the Millcreek School District will most likely implement a tax increase, and the Millcreek Township one mill increase will cost taxpayers \$100 per \$100,000 house. Chairman Kujawa would be willing to keep \$100,000 in the budget for the golf course/learning center if the tax increase would be lowered to one-half mill. He also feels that each department needs to cut back its spending.

Mr. Figaski responded that he feels the old telephone system is unreliable, as evidenced one month ago when the township was without telephone service for several days. He reminded everyone that over the past thirteen years the overall tax increase has only been .10 mills, and that from the creation of the preliminary budget until today, \$500,000 has been cut.

Mr. Kujawa noted that the township has had several catastrophic health care claims in the amount of \$ 1,200,000 this year, and also that \$420,000 was spent on salt. Plans have been made to use more anti-skid material this year, which is less expensive. He stated that he feels that the 2014 Proposed Budget is very conservative.

Mr. McGrath responded that if the anticipated surplus is reduced, then the township may have to take out a Tax Anticipation Loan to cover its end of year expenses. He stated that no one wants to raise taxes.

Treasurer Wolf stated that the township needs \$2,200,000 to sustain a forty-five day emergency fund.

Mr. McGrath stated that leasing two trucks in 2014 will save the township money in the long run.

Mr. McGrath then moved to approve the 2014 budget with a one mill tax increase, to include the \$100,000 for the Millcreek Golf Course/Learning Center, and the \$20,000 for Senior Health Care. There was no second to the motion; motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Figaski then moved to adopt the 2014 budget with a one mill tax increase without the \$100,000 for the Millcreek Golf Course and Learning Center, but to include the \$20,000 for Senior Citizen Health Care. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1, with Mr. Kujawa voting no.

On motion by Mr. Figaski and seconded by Mr. McGrath, Resolution 2013-R-29 was approved fixing the Millcreek Township tax rate for the year 2014 at 3.3977. Motion carried 2-1, with Mr. Kujawa voting no.

Regarding Resolution 2013-R-30, Mr. Figaski stated that he would like MECCA and the Joy Center to justify the need and cost of \$20,000 for providing health care fairs and flu shot administration in the future. It was then moved by Mr. Figaski and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve Resolution 2013-R-30; a Resolution authorizing certain financial grants within the 2014 Millcreek Township Budget. This includes \$2,000.00 for the Regional Asset Fund, \$20,000.00 for Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (LIFT) and \$20,000.00 for Senior Citizen Health Care. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Kujawa reported that Millcreek Township sewer rates will not change in 2014, remaining at \$84.00 per quarter. He stated that the City of Erie has raised their rates for 2014. Mr. Figaski added that the City of Erie has sent a letter to surrounding municipalities saying they would like to re-evaluate their costs; however, there has been no recent communication regarding rate changes. It was then moved by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Figaski to approve the 2014 Sewer Revenue Fund Budget in the amount of \$11,246,865. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

It was recommended by Atty. Adair, moved by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Figaski, to approve Consent of Second Amendment to Declaration of Condominium of Stonebrook Condominiums in Whispering Woods, which will reduce the number of units originally proposed. A final set of plans will be submitted by the developer for approval. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

It was recommended by Engineer Morris, moved by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Figaski, to deny a request for release of credit of PNC Bank Letter of Credit #18118235-00-000 in the amount of \$39,006 for Laurel Springs – Phase 5B (Pastore Brothers, developer), and rather reduce the Amount of Security to \$20,020 due to the Planting Strip in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 3.10.4 not being complete. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications:

1. Treasurer Wolf requested approval of General Employee and Police Department pension plans under Act 205 of 1984 in the amounts of \$1,275,358 for General Employees and \$1,408,495 for the Police Department. It was moved by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Figaski to approve. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
2. Mr. Kujawa thanked the Board, Assistant Secretary Vollbrecht and Engineer Morris for their support in working together during the past 18 years. He stated it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve Millcreek Township.
3. Mr. McGrath wished everyone a Happy New Year. He then asked that a letter be sent to Reidman Development regarding *The Hammocks* on Zuck Road, clarifying the need for a north bound turning lane onto Zuck Road, prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for Buildings 8 and 9. It was moved by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Figaski to approve. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
4. Mr. Kujawa noted that two appointments are ending on December 31, 2013. Mr. Figaski responded that a recent meeting took place to change the term ending dates on those appointments, and they will now expire at the same time as the Reorganizational Meeting (January 6, 2014).

Sue Weber, 5338 Norris Drive, asked the following questions:

1. When an employee leaves the township, do they receive compensation for any unused vacation days? Treasurer Wolf responded “yes.” Ms. Weber then asked why Chairman Kujawa did not come in to work on the budget with the other supervisors to work on lowering the tax increase. Chairman Kujawa responded that he had previously planned to take those vacation days, but did come into the office to work on the budget and was available by phone as well.
2. Ms. Weber asked Mr. Figaski how many budget sessions were held. Mr. Figaski replied there were four sessions, and that Chairman Kujawa attended two sessions and Mr. Groh attended two sessions.
3. Ms. Weber asked if any items other than healthcare had been overspent in the 2013 budget. Mr. McGrath replied that the salt budget was the only overspent item. She asked if the paving budget item was overspent, and Mr. McGrath replied no; Mr. Figaski said he was unsure.

Lou Aliota, 538 Margo Court, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and offered his best wishes to Chairman Kujawa and the citizens and taxpayers of Millcreek Township. Mr. Aliota encouraged the Board to do the following:

1. Define the function of government; what is its purpose?
2. Develop a Community Action/Advisory Committee

3. Remember that they are here to help and collaborate with the township, and to respond to the needs, not the wants of the township citizens.

Mr. Aliota then asked why the preliminary budget posted on the website was not the same as discussed at today's meeting, citing money budgeted for the golf course/learning center and Veteran's Park. Mr. Figaski replied that \$500,000 in cuts had been made since the Preliminary Budget was created, and that the final 2014 budget will be posted on the website as soon as possible.

Mr. McGrath noted that this was Chairman Kujawa's last meeting after thirty-five years of service to the township, the last eighteen as Supervisor. He stated that Chairman Kujawa has been instrumental in many big changes in the township, which has experienced significant growth and legislation under his leadership, including many new subdivision and building ordinances, property maintenance codes, storm water management and more. Mr. McGrath emphasized that there were many tough decisions to be made over the years, including renovating the Municipal Building, collecting delinquent sewer bills, improving ambulance services, increasing taxes to support the volunteer firefighters and battling to successfully save Powell Avenue. Mr. McGrath said Chairman Kujawa is by far the hardest working elected official he has known, and was always willing go the extra mile, whether climbing into a snow plow or grabbing a rake or shovel or helping with a project. He noted that Mr. Kujawa always saw a project through from start to finish, and described him as relentless, determined, and committed. He stated that Millcreek's employees now operate newer and better equipment because of Mr. Kujawa. We now have two salt storage buildings, a senior center, and cooperative agreements among local municipalities, which save taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. Mr. Kujawa was relentless in pursuing grants to fund the development of the Millfair Recycling Center, one of the finest facilities in the state. He has also pursued grants to fund equipment as well. Mr. McGrath praised Mr. Kujawa for coming to work several times when ill or injured, and thanked him again for his service to the community, for helping residents and for being a friend.

Mr. McGrath then relayed a story when he and Chairman Kujawa were teammates on a softball team, and how after Mr. McGrath hit a home run to tie the game, Chairman Kujawa immediately hit another home run to win the game.

Mr. Figaski commented that despite any disagreements, Chairman Kujawa made him a better thinker and Supervisor.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Figaski and seconded by Mr. McGrath to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Sheryl A. Williams  
Executive Assistant

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Approved: January 6, 2014

Brian P. McGrath

Richard P. Figaski