

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson David Moyer called the budget meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:01 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda (arrived at 6:12 p.m.), Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff members Doug Bleam and Susan Brown. There were four (4) residents in attendance.

Absent: James Roma

TAPING OF MEETING

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted no one other than township staff was taping the meeting this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERVISORS

2020 BUDGET REVIEW

General Fund:

Board Members started off with the review and discussion of the general fund revenue and expenses. Mr. Sichler stated he has not yet done the 5-year projection.

Supervisor Powanda arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Fireman's Relief funds are in and out within 60 days.

It was discussed increasing line item 400.500 from \$500 to \$1,000 which is for Excellence in Local Government contribution. Legal fees were increased from \$60,000 to \$100,000. The health care insurance rate increase for 2020 will be 4.17% based on our claims. It was discussed the short-term disability only pays \$250 per week, less federal tax, social security and Medicare tax. This coverage has been the same for many years and is now outdated. It was suggested checking into other available options. Discussion took place regarding connection to local natural gas; Mr. Sichler will check into costs associated with switching to gas. The following items are up for consideration:

- Emergency generator-50% grant for cost of generator installation based on the capacity needed to power the building for emergency operations.
- Natural gas supply-check costs for all facilities

- Electronic building sign
- Pole building 40 x 50
- Paving of Public Works parking lot
- Paving box
- Replacement of all computers
- Straighten Barto Road & rework intersection of Barto Rd and Old Route 100
- HTC for shoulder machine
- Torch
- Utility locator and case
- Grader

It was suggested to increase the EBFD donation for 2020 from \$20,000 to \$37,500. It was suggested a donation should be given to the Salvation Army who are trying to raise funds to build a building to house their vehicle. It was agreed to donate \$1,000.

There was discussion regarding the recycling program. It was noted the volunteers work very hard during the recycling events however about 60% of the people that drop off recyclables are not residents of the township. It was discussed checking for proof of residency for anyone coming in to recycle. Rich will discuss this with the EAC Committee.

The paving box is about \$202,000 and there was discussion regarding the possibility of sharing the box with another local municipality. It was also discussed to look at used paving boxes.

Next there was a review of the Park & Recreation budget. Supervisor Moyer asked to look at someone other than Potty Queen for the port-a-potties. Additional fencing was discussed for Barto Park along the backside of the park. Supervisor Moyer asked why not put up a natural fence. Both Supervisors stated they would like to walk the area before making a decision. Request for the resurfacing of the basketball court. Barto field improvement cost of \$92,000 to construct a field for practice only. The following items are listed and noted if they will be pursued:

- Gehringer Open Space – yes
- Barto Park fencing – not determined
- Park signs – yes
- Additional labor cost \$6,000 – no
- Basketball Court resurfacing – yes
- Barto Park Field Improvement - no

Traffic impact fund anticipate wrapping up this account. At the end of August, the account had \$30,819. Will be zeroing out this balance.

Sewer Fund had the three additional funds, Debt Service Account, Plant Capital Expenditures Account and Plant Expansion Account have been opened as suggested by

Mr. Janssen. This money is now earmarked as Mr. Janssen outlined for future maintenance, etc.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the operation of the treatment plant and potentially hiring two employees.

At this point the sewer rate does not increase nor does it decrease and Supervisors will continue to look at a possible reduction going forward.

Supervisor Roma would like to start making double payments on the sewer debt. The following items are listed and noted if they will be pursued:

- Debt Service payments – no
- Capital Equipment budget for the contract amount, balance in Capital Equipment – yes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget meeting will not be needed tomorrow, Tuesday, October. 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm

The next WTMA (water) meeting will be held Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:30 pm

The next BOS meeting will be Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by David Moyer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m. **No public comments received.**

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler
Manager/Secretary