

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson David Moyer called the budget meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00 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, James Roma, Township Manager, Richard Sichler, staff members Missy Swanson and Susan Brown. There were six (6) residents in attendance.

Absent:

**SUPERVISORS**

**2021 BUDGET REVIEW**

The 2021 budget meeting started off with the review and discussion of the general fund, copies of the preliminary budget were distributed to the public.

Mr. Sichler started by reviewing graphs depicting tax and starting balance trends, real estate tax values, real estate taxes current, earned income tax, real estate transfer tax and sewer fund revenue from 2010 to present.

Rich stated he will need to do some research to determine if the WTMA Contracted Services line item, 358.400, includes the administrative expense for the sewer and water.

Price quotes have been obtained for a new copy machine for the administration building. Rich explained the repair and maintenance contract price on the current copier is so high due to the age of the copy machine. The service contract has been increased at a rate of 15% per year. Rich stated we are currently paying \$367 per month and can get that cost down to \$50 per month on a new machine.

The health insurance industry estimated increase this year is 5% to 7% however the township increase will be 1% based on the township claim rates.

Eastern Berks Fire Department donation will remain the same as last year.

The Multi-Service and Salvation Army contributions will be raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Public Works Safety Equipment was raised from \$1,500 to \$2,500 and road signs/private lane signs was raised from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

There was discussion regarding the purchase of a new truck for Public Works. It was discussed purchasing a Ford F-450 with a stake body, removable salt spreader and stainless body.

The Roadmaster submitted a “wish list” for the following items:

- New truck as discussed
- Brush hog for the John Deere
- Case trackhoe at a cost of \$111,500 or
- Case backhoe cost is \$135,000
- HIC leveling assembly for shoulder machine for \$6,750
- grader

A generator is needed for the new traffic light at Barto Road. Storm sewers and drains raised from \$5,000 to \$8,500. The Boyertown Community Library contribution was raised from \$2,800 to \$3,200.

Rich will get a price quote to cover (skin) the outside of the salt shed. This would minimize the maintenance needed on the outside of the building.

Other items up for consideration:

- Copier for Administration at a cost of \$8,000
- Desktop printer
- Emergency generator
- Natural gas supply (Mr. Moyer will contact them regarding quoted price)
- Electronic building sign
- Public Works pole building
- Paving of Public Works parking lot
- Barto Road straightening
- Chain link fence

#### Sewer Fund Review

There was a total of 27 new sewer connections in 2020 and Rich is estimating 20 new connections for 2021. Rich will increase manhole risers and inserts from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Rich stated the sewer fund has about 50% of our operating expenses but feels this is artificially high because the capital projects for 2020 did not get done. Rich will do a five-year projection when he knows what the capital expenditures will be. Chairman Moyer stated the electric upgrade needed at Weinstein Pump Station will take a substantial amount of money which will be part of the five-year projection.

#### Review of Street Light and Hydrant Funds

Rich is working on restructuring the streetlight districts.

#### Liquid Fuels

This year we received \$183,365 from PennDOT and next year it is believed it will drop to \$165,249 which is reflected in the budget. Supervisor Roma asked if there would be an expansion of white line painting, Rich will check with Brian.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:53 p.m. **No public comments received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sichler  
Manager/Secretary