

BUDGET WORKSHOP – Page 1

A special meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held October 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing the 2021 Budget and any other business that should come before the board, as was advertised. Those present: Dave Mattiuz, Matt Pontzer and Randy Gradizzi, supervisors, Kathy Dowie, secretary-treasurer, Rob Singer, and Scott Surra, fire chief.

Chairman Mattiuz called the meeting to order and began by acknowledging the visitors.

Scott Surra had reviewed the Fire Protection budget report and felt that no changes were needed in that fund, keeping the expenses the same as 2020. Scott also reported that the new truck is scheduled for delivery in April. With Scott's recommendation, the Board kept the line items in the Fire Protection Fund the same as in the 2020 Budget.

The Board discussed each line item of the budget as it appeared on the worksheets.

Moving on to the General Fund budget, the following items were acted upon or discussed:

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Matt Pontzer to increase Building Permit fees by 10% and to add the option of a \$50 fee for each additional inspection or review required by the Code Enforcement Officer in response to a contractor making continual changes or not properly following building code requirements. Motion carried.

In discussing the hospitalization line item, Kathy Dowie asked Matt Pontzer if he (and his wife) were going to enroll in the Township's plan. Matt responded that he would be enrolling for coverage next year. As such, Kathy provided the total amount for this item for 2021. The plan, being provided by Municipal Benefits Services, will see an increase of 6.5 % for next year.

In discussing the Road Maintenance items, Randy Gradizzi stated that he would like to budget for the following:

Salt, approximately \$40,000

1B limestone, 4000 ton @ \$25.10 - \$100,400 [3,000 ton for winter maintenance and 1,000 ton for oil and chipping.]

2A limestone, 2,000 ton @ \$18.45 - \$36,900

MC70 Dust Oil, 25,000 gallon - \$47,250

Paving – Linwood, Pinecrest and Cedar (\$50,000) and Laurel, Fern, Anna & George (\$155,323)

Crack seal and Sealcoating Green Road - \$41,276

In discussing the equipment fund, Randy Gradizzi would like to purchase a new equipment trailer at a cost of \$17,000 and a new road grader. Currently, he has a price for a Case grader of \$219,000 and a CAT grader for \$280,000. He was quoted a trade-in value of \$18,000 for the current grader but feels that it would sell for much more on Municibids. He would also sell the current equipment trailer on Municibids as well, asking for a minimum bid of \$1,500. Rob Singer had requested replacing the Ford Ranger he uses as Code Officer. Randy had an estimate of \$26,500 for a new Ford Ranger.

The items as presented were added into the General Fund Budget and an amount determined for the remaining items in this Fund.

The Board then went into executive session to discuss wages. Upon returning, Dave Mattiuz announced that a \$0.30 per hour increase would be budgeted for all the employees, with the exception of the park directors and the PHEAA program workers. Matt Klaiber would also be moved to the Equipment Operator rate, effective the start of the next pay period (October 24th).

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Once wages were calculated, the amount needed from the Landfill Host Fees to balance the General Fund were determined. Due to the anticipated decrease in Earned Income Tax as a result of the COVID-19 shut down, as well as the decrease in Landfill Host Fees received this year, the amount needed to balance the General Fund left very little in the Landfill Fund. The Board went back and re-evaluated the amounts previously added into the General Fund. In doing so, paving was reduced to just Linwood, Pinecrest and Cedar at a cost of \$50,000 and Green Road will only be crack-sealed next year. Randy would still like to purchase the trailer and road grader, but the Ford Ranger was eliminated. The Case road grader was budgeted, but due to the difference in price from the others, Randy would like to see and operate this model before making the purchase. Having made these changes, the Board was able to budget for contributions to the Fire and ambulance reserve funds, as well as placing \$50,000 in the road maintenance reserve for future projects. The 2020 Act 13 money (\$81,727.30) will be allocated to the equipment reserve fund to put towards the purchase of the road grader.

In accordance with the Investment in Future Fund Ordinance, Section IV(3), a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Matt Pontzer, to allocate \$40,000 of the calculated investment amount to the Equipment Reserve fund, leaving \$37,555 to invest. Motion carried.

In discussing the Toby Water budget, Randy Gradizzi estimated a cost of \$50,000 to run the water line from the inter-connect to the treatment plant, with the Township doing the work. This project was added to the Toby Water budget.

Kathy Dowie will re-check all the figures and prepare the proposed budget for the Board to review at the next meeting.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Matt Pontzer to adjourn this meeting at 7:25 PM. Motion carried.