

BUDGET WORKSHOP

A special meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held October 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing the 2025 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, Jerry Zimmerman, Fox Township Ambulance manager, Greg Bauer and Scott Surra, fire chief.

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

Scott Surra had provided with figures for the 2025 Fire Protection Fund Budget prior to the meeting. Chief Surra stated that the purchase of a new truck was on hold, as turn-around times for new fire engines are now 36 – 48 months. The department may consider purchasing a demonstration model if something decent comes along. The Board thanked Scott and the members of the department for their service. The fire Protection budget was left as Surra had proposed.

Jerry Zimmerman, manger of Fox Township Ambulance was present to ask the Board to consider imposing an additional tax millage to be collected for the ambulance service, as he would like to increase the salary for crews to be on call on the weekends to \$100 per shift per crew member. This would require an additional \$26,000 that the ambulance service does not currently have. Randy Gradizzi stated that 1 mill would generate approximately \$62,000. He suggested taxing 1 mill then eliminating the annual membership fee that the ambulance currently requires. There was discussion on the pros and cons of eliminating the membership.

When discussing the Toby Water budget, Randy Gradizzi stated that DEP had suggested that the water tanks be cleaned. He had an estimate of \$9,000 for this. Given that there was money still available in the Toby Water Fund, this will be done yet this year.

The Board continued their discussion of the General Fund by reviewing the suggested figures as provided by Kathy Dowie for each line item. Randy Gradizzi had provided figures for the road department items and worked with Kathy prior to the meeting to have these items adequately allocated across the General Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund and Landfill Fund. Included in Randy's road department budget were the following:

- Paving of Hogback Road at an estimated cost of \$219,901
- Purchase of 10,000 gallons of MC70 Dust Oil
- Purchase of 1000 ton of 1B limestone and 2000 ton of 2A limestone
- Sealcoating Hayes Road, Shelvey Road and Ridge Road at an estimated cost of 181,282.50
- 500 ton road salt

The Board then went into an executive session to discuss employees' wages for 2025. Upon returning, Dave Mattiuz announced that they would be giving a 3% increase to all employees (accept the PHEAA students as per that program). Kathy Dowie entered this figure into the appropriate General Fund line items.

Discussion continued to the Landfill Account. Randy Gradizzi stated that he would like to purchase an E-60 Bobcat Excavator at a cost of \$97,560. He felt that the current excavator could be sold at no less than \$45,000, a difference of \$52,560. Kathy Dowie stated that in review of the equipment reserve fund, this could be purchased without adding additional funds to the account. Randy also stated that he would like to replace the pickup truck that is used to plow parking lots. He had a price of \$64,990 for a 2025 F250 with a plow and spreader. Additional funds were added to the equipment reserve fund to allow for the purchase of the pickup truck.

The Board also announced that they had discussed Jerry Zimmerman's request while in executive session and decided to fund another \$26,000 to Fox Township Ambulance instead of imposing an additional tax. This was included in the Landfill Account Budget.

In discussing the previous request to replace the gym equipment in the Community Building, the Board felt that in doing so, it would infringe on private businesses and chose not to pursue the project.

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 6:45 PM. Motion carried.