

## BUDGET WORKSHOP – Page 1

A special meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held October 25, 2023 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing the 2024 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 with acknowledging the visitors.

Scott Surra had provided with figures for the 2024 Fire Protection Fund Budget and discussed the next purchase of a fire engine. Surra stated that the current delivery time for a fire engine is 3 years with a commercial chassis and 4 years for a custom chassis. The commercial chassis engines are pricing at \$700,000 while the custom chassis are coming in at \$1 million. Looking forward, the department would like to replace the 1998 engine as it will be 30 years old by the time its replacement would be delivered. Given the prices, Surra felt that they would be looking at a commercial chassis engine and targeting a \$600,000 price range. The 1998 engine was a custom chassis and could carry 10 firefighters. Unfortunately, they do not have 10 firefighters to put on a single truck anymore, therefore a commercial chassis will be fine. Chief Surra plans on having his truck committee work on the specifications over the winter months and get the truck ordered in the spring. Dave Mattiuz asked if the price would hold during the 3 – 4 year delivery time. Surra responded that it would. Kathy Dowie commented that given the amounts in the Fire Protection equipment reserve accounts, there would likely be enough to pay for this engine without budgeting additional funding.

Surra also asked what it would take to get an additional fire hydrant on the Toby Water system, as he has had a request for a hydrant near the Carlson property on Toby Road. Randy Gradizzi replied that that would be no problem and recommended that the cost of the hydrant be added to the 2024 Toby Water budget when that was discussed.

The Board then went into an executive session to discuss employees' wages for 2024. Upon returning, Dave Mattiuz announced that they would be giving a \$0.70 per hour increase to all employees (accept the PHEAA students as per that program). Kathy Dowie entered this figure into the appropriate General Fund line items. 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 Homestead Rd, Meadow Lane, Greenbrier Dr and Mark Lane at a total estimated cost of \$98,624
- Purchase of 10,000 gallons of MC70 Dust Oil
- Purchase of 2300 ton of 1B limestone and 1000 ton of 2A limestone
- Completion of the Cherry Run project under the Dirt and Gravel Roads grant program
- Completion of the crosswalk project under the ARLE grant program
- 500 ton road salt

Randy Gradizzi stated that he would like to purchase two new plow trucks. He had priced a 2025 Peterbuilt which came in at \$251,712 complete with plow and spreader. He also priced a 2024 F600 which came in at \$124,751 complete with plow and spreader. These are both COSTAR pricing. Randy stated that after discussion with the Assistant Roadmaster, they decided that purchasing two F600 trucks would be the best option. The 2001 and 2005 Internationals would then be sold with the purchase amount being put back into the equipment reserve fund. Kathy Dowie stated that in review of the current Liquid Fuels budget, there will be \$95,058 available this year to put towards equipment purchases. That amount in addition to the funds currently available in the equipment reserve of the Landfill account, would total \$255,837, enough to purchase two F600 trucks yet this year. A motion was then made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Matt Pontzer to purchase two F600 plow trucks with plows and spreaders. Motion carried. Randy commented that there is one F600 chassis on the lot at Tri-Star now. The other will have to be ordered.

BUDGET WORKSHOP – Page 2

In other discussion of the Landfill Budget, it was noted that the repairs to the Municipal Building garage as well as the garage roof repair would come out of the 2023 budget, as they are to be completed this year yet.

When discussing the Toby Water budget, the Board allowed funds for the installation of the fire hydrant as requested by the fire chief. A timber sale will be conducted, eliminating the need to increase rates for Toby Water customers. The Supervisors plan on approaching St. Marys Water to see if they can negotiate a better price on the water that is purchased to serve the Toby Water customers.

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

In other business, the Board did consider the request from St. Marys Airport Authority but did not see where a contribution would fit into the budget.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Matt Pontzer to adjourn this meeting at 6:25 PM. Motion carried.