

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRAURY 11, 2023
8:00 AM

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 8:00 a.m. Committeemen Bomba, Brown, Dennis and Pelura were present. Also present at this meeting were C. Ehret-CMFO, A. Crist-Treasurer, B. Kelly-Finance Clerk, J. Proffitt-Township Clerk and Fred Caltabiano Township Auditor. Mrs. Shaw was not in attendance.

Mayor Pelura called the meeting to order, he read the **Opening Public Meeting Act**. Mayor Pelura led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and roll call was taken.

Mrs. Ehret started by saying, she and Mr. Caltabiano worked on the updates for the spread sheet. Mr. Caltabiano said there were a lot of added and omitted taxes which is good. He said the tax collection rate for 2022 was 96.82%. Mr. Caltabiano discussed the plan that was put in place to build the fund balance. He said it is working. The end of last year you had 5.9 million and this year it is 7.9 million. He discussed the cap bank and said the State is allowing more expenditures this year. He suggested reducing the revenue amount for the warehouses to 95% due to the County receives 5%. Mr. Caltabiano said the Introduction of the Budget will be the end of March or first Meeting in April.

Mrs. Ehret said a few years ago was the revaluation, money was put aside for the cost. She said there was \$105,000 left over. A resolution will be done by Mr. Caltabiano to cancel this amount. She said this helped a lot. Mr. Brown mentioned the DRBA Tax Appeal. He said they just sold three lots in their park. How will that affect the appeal. Mr. Caltabiano said he is going to look into the appeal. Mrs. Ehret brought up from the first meeting the money collected for off duty officers being used for vehicles. She said it cannot be used for vehicles. The COAH Liaison's salary can be charged to the Trust. Mr. Caltabiano said there is approximately 5.9 million in the COAH Trust.

Mr. Caltabiano discussed where our tax rate should be. He said 3 cents is a good amount but he is aware the Committee still has some budgets to review. He mentioned the lawsuit with Dupont. He said the Attorney is requesting in the settlement to recoup our money and have his bills paid. Mr. Brown asked if the Township should raise the tax rate to 4 cents. That would help. Mr. Caltabiano said right now 3 would be good but see what the next few meetings do. Capital projects was discussed for financing. Mrs. Ehret said she bumped the payment on the Notes by \$50,000. Mr. Caltabiano said it will be less to pay off in the end.

Mr. Brown suggested increasing the amount in the Court Judges payment line. Judge Witcher receives \$300 a session but the substitute Judge gets \$450 a session. Mr. Brown mentioned he is also not sure when Judge Witcher will be back so we may have a substitute for a while. Mrs. Ehret said she had to increase longevity in the Police Dept to \$40,000. She said in the Legal O/E there was no answer from Mr. Albert Telsey yet. She said Freda in the Planning Board is also looking at her budget. Mr. Palumbo will be attending our next budget meeting. OEM increased their total expense by \$300 for safety equipment.

Mayor Pelura said he was sorry for leaving but would be back soon. He left the meeting at 8:40 am. Mr. Caltabiano also left the meeting at 8:41 am.

Joe Santogrossi came to the table to review his budget. Mrs. Ehret said all the salaries were put into the Streets and Roads line. Mr. Santogrossi said one driver and two laborers will be paid out

of the other departments. Mr. Santogrossi said when the budget was put together, we still had the shared service with Penns Grove. The Committee reviewed each line in Streets and Roads. The conferences/seminars line was cut to \$500. Recycling was done next. Mr. Santogrossi asked that the line for removal of recycling be cut from \$20,000 to \$5,000. He asked if the extra money can be placed in vehicle maintenance for each tab section. Mr. Santogrossi reviewed Solid Waste and Buildings and Ground with no major changes. The Committee mentioned Fuel and Diesel. Mr. Santogrossi said he increased the lines by 20,000 due to fuel increases. Electric bills were discussed and Mrs. Kelly said she is still receiving a bill for the YMCA building even though it is no longer ours. She commented she has tried to contact the owner to change the account to no avail. Mr. Brown said to give all of it to our Solicitor to handle. Mayor Pelura returned at 9:15 am. Mrs. Ehret caught him up on what was reviewed and changed. Mayor Pelura asked about the stipend that Mr. Santogrossi receives for Penns Grove. Ms. Crist said it was removed. Mayor Pelura asked about the employees and a need for summer help. Mr. Santogrossi said he will know better in the spring. He does not need to hire any summer help at this time.

Mayor Pelura mentioned the Dog Park is being worked on today. He also mentioned that Ms. Crist sent a final bill to Penns Grove for what they owe us and collection up to January 13th. Mr. Avedissian said he will check to see if paid and if not will file suite. It was mentioned that Penns Grove's website still has that we are collecting their trash and recycles. Mr. Santogrossi said he went to Trek warehouse and discussed recycling with them. He said he is looking into renting and picking up recycling dumpsters. In the Engineering tab Mayor Pelura asked about the money in the Plant Road pump station. Mr. Santogrossi said to ask Mr. Cosaboon our former Engineer. The Recreation Commission was increased by \$20,000 so a part time person could be hired for the parks.

In Old Business Mr. Pine addressed the proposal from docu-Vault. It was asked how many boxes do we have to send. Mr. Pine said he will try to get a count for the next meeting.

Mayor Brown moved on to **Public Participation:** With no public questions or comments this portion was closed. Mayor Pelura said with the Superbowl tomorrow "Go Birds".

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bomba to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brown. Motion passed with four affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

3-1-2023
Approved: _____



June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk