

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRAURY 4, 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. Committee people Brown, Dennis, Shaw, and Pelura were present. Mr. Bomba was not in attendance. Also present at this meeting were C. Ehret-CMFO, A. Crist-Treasurer, B. Kelly Finance Clerk and J. Proffitt-Township Clerk.

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 giving an overview of the 2023 budget as it stands from last year. She said the Township Auditor will be at our next Budget meeting and will have a better surplus number. The Cogeneration number is going away this year. Shared Services with Penns Grove for Tax Collection and Public Works have both ended. She mentioned the Township is trying to build revenue, so when the Cogen. money ends we won't be hit as hard.

Chief VanNamee is in attendance to review his budget. Chief VanNamee came to the table. The Committee reviewed line by line of the Police Budget. If any questions arose the Chief answered them to the best of his ability. Mrs. Ehret said the longevity pay will have to be looked at for a more accurate number. The Mayor mentioned the pay increase. Outside work is per Ordinance at 30% for an administration fee. This is paid by the Contractors. Chief VanNamee said last year they made approximately 86 thousand dollars. He asked if part of this money can be used as an emergency fund for vehicles at the end of the year. Mrs. Ehret said it looks that part of the money was used for current funds. The Auditor will have to answer this question. Officers currently receive \$85.00 per hour for outside employment. The Mayor said this is in negotiations to increase. Chief VanNamee mentioned that he is in charge of cameras. He asked if he could have access to the money. The money was in Buildings and Grounds. Currently, he has to ask Public Works for money to make repairs.

The Chief and Committee moved on to discuss Capital requests for the Police Department. Chief VanNamee said he attached a letter to explain what he would like to see, such as increased money for vehicle repairs. Another item requested is a battery powered door ram. The Chief explained the battery powered door ram and a mini cutter. Mr. Brown said he could speak to Triad to see if there are any grants for equipment. The Chief said the Fire Dept also needs to upgrade to these. Next, the Chief mentioned the replacement of seven (7) computers in the Police Department. He said this is keeping up to the rotating replacement. Lastly, the Chief spoke about the expansion of the parking lot in the back of the building. He said he would like to see some of the trees removed and the lot extended. This would give the Officers a place to park. Mayor Pelura said he had nothing to do with the proposal. The Chief mentioned police cars were ordered and it took over a year to get.

Chief VanNamee discussed a five-year plan with the Committee. He said they are going to have to hire more police officers. He mentioned the warehouses and the number of calls they go to. Chief VanNamee ended his budget and left the table.

Mr. Pine discussed the budget for the Administrator. He said he did not have anything to go off of for this budget. He mentioned getting quotes for a server for the Township. He said this will go in Capital Requests. Document storage was discussed. Mr. Pine said we are running out of room for storage. He looked into a few places that do storage. A line will have to be added for this topic. Mayor Pelura said the office supplies and miscellaneous items will be reduced. The request for CMFO classes will be discussed at a later time.

Mayor/Committee budget is almost the same except for dues. The Mayor discussed casual shirts for the Committee for meetings and for outside events. One will be provided and each person can purchase what they would like. Mrs. Shaw said there should be a long sleeve and one short sleeved shirt ordered.

Next the Clerk reviewed her budget. Every line was discussed and most were the same as last year. The computer equipment and supplies were cut by 4,300. She said new computers were ordered last year so there is no need for that money. The money was moved to codification of ordinances. There are some 20 from last year that need to be done. The members were ok with the change.

Mrs. Ehret reviewed the Finance budget. She mentioned bringing the payroll back to the Finance Office. This would be done through the Edmunds System. She mentioned we are paying Kevin Crouse \$750 per month. This would save money and be easier to fix problems. She said the first of April but if it is not ready then it will be July 1st.

The former Tax Collector put together the worksheets. There were no changes from the year before. Tax Assessment was then reviewed. There was a question of the salary. That was for the Assessor and an assistant in the office. She is currently working alone.

Under the Legal tab Mayor Pelura asked for the Finance Office to call Albert Telsey to get an estimate of what he feels our legal O/E should be. Under engineering there was a tab for Plant Road pump station. Mayor Pelura said we can ask Mr. Santogrossi what the is for. Planning Board will have to wait until the Secretary is in to verify some of the costs. There are a lot of new members that will have to go to school for the certificate. That line may need more money. The Committee discussed updating the Master Plan. In the Insurance tab there was a substantial increase. Mr. Brown said he will call to find out why. Emergency Management is being looked at.

Police Dispatch was discussed. Mrs. Ehret said she has an agreement that was sent to her months ago. Mayor Pelura said this needs to be approved today and signed. He has spoken to a few other municipalities and they had substantial increases. Ours is not that much. Mr. Brown made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for Police Dispatching with the County, seconded by Mr. Dennis and all were in favor. Mayor Pelura asked to have the agreement forwarded to the Solicitor to review before it is sent to the County.

Under Vital Statistics Mrs. Proffitt said we made Casey English the Alternate Deputy Registrar on January at Reorg. Her salary needs to be added to the budget. Everything in the rest of the budget was fine.

Court was discussed by Mr. Brown. Bonds and Grants were both discussed. Mr. Pelura said Public Works will be at the next meeting.

Mayor Pelura moved on to **Public Participation:** With no public questions or comments this portion was closed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Shaw to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dennis. Motion passed with four affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

3-1-2023
Approved:



June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk