

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRAURY 10, 2024
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 Shaw, Pelura, Bomba, Johnson and Brown were present. Also present at this meeting were C. Ehret-CMFO and J. Proffitt-Township Clerk.

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

Mrs. Ehret started by giving an overview of the 2024 budget as it stands from the last meeting. She said \$78,450 has been removed from the budget since last week. She also corrected the salaries for a few people where the formula was incorrect. Ms. Ehret said she added money for the revaluation. She spoke to the Auditor as to how much money and what gets paid from this line item. Mayor Brown said he feels that Ms. Hill Assessor should come to a meeting to explain how a reval. works and how it will help our county taxes.

Mr. John Palumbo Construction Official came before the meeting to review his budget. He mentioned he put extra money in the Mitchell Humphrey account. This is their Construction account. He mentioned he put extra money in the budget for stipends. He said there are a lot of proposed warehouses coming.

Mr. Pelura said the new roadway will start on our side of Route 40 by Cowtown. This is a 30/40-million-dollar project. They are waiting on the State. The Redevelopers are paying for this project. Mr. Palumbo said he has about \$270,000 coming in and Forest Lane project will be about another 40 to 50 thousand in permits this year alone. He mentioned that the Construction Office is supposed to be self-sufficient. He spoke of an extra plumbing inspector and electrical inspector. He said Jim Pratta is retiring from his current job and can help us out. He then discussed raises for the girls in the office. He said they do a great job and the contractors that come in all complement both of them on how efficient they are. He said they are paid from the money made in the Construction Office. He said they both deserve this increase. Mr. Palumbo commented that Stephanie would like to get the lead paint certification. This would allow us to keep the \$200 that has to go to the State. He would like to see her get a stipend when completed. Mr. Pelura asked what are we going to do when all the warehouses slow down. Mayor Brown said he thinks this will be going for close to ten years.

The Committee discussed vehicles with the Construction Official. He said he ordered three new vehicles and has not received any so far from last year. Mr. Pelura said he would like to see your office pick up at least two more. Mr. Pelura asked about the warehouses and if his office could keep the Committee up to date on what is going on with them. He said just an email would work. Mr. Palumbo said maybe we need a myth vs. fact section of our newsletter. Mr. Palumbo went on to ask to have the Zoning Officer an extra day each week. He would adjust his days in other offices. Mr. Pelura asked what is our advantage for this move. Mr. Palumbo said he would be available more, have more accessibility. Mr. Palumbo discussed Stephanie getting lead paint certified. This would allow the Township to keep the \$200. With all said Mr. Palumbo left the meeting at 9am.

At 9:02 am Police Chief Dale VanNamee came to the table to address his budget. Ms. Ehret mentioned the salaries had to be adjusted due to a formula error. Also, four officers were not at the correct step and retro to 2023. Ms. Ehret said there was a question of when the steps start. The Chief said he put more money into the uniform line due to the price increases. He discussed costs for fatal accidents and now the Township pays for the vehicles where the County use to. The Chief discussed hiring additional officers. He said there are currently 23 police officers, but would like 8 more. He said with more vehicle activity due to the warehouses. The Chief mentioned the officers who could retire or will soon be able. He doesn't want to wait until the last minute, would be willing to do two a year. Mr. Bomba said could do a schedule.

Chief VanNamee reviewed his Capital Requests. He spoke of the exterior windows on the building in the back. He received a quote for what it would cost to replace them. He also requested two patrol vehicles for the Police Dept. The Chief spoke of a covered area in the back of the building for the patrol vehicles. Mayor Brown asked if maybe a grant could be used with solar panels on top. He said he will call TRIAD to look for grants. Lastly, Chief VanNamee discussed a pay increase for the Confidential Police Assistant and the Police Clerk. He said they are the innerworkings of the Department. He also mentioned he does not want them poached by another agency for better money.

Ms. Ehret finished by addressing the lost revenue from the Cogen. All the fees are continuing to go up.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pelura to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Shaw. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 pm.

3-6-2024
Approved:


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk