

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRAURY 24, 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, B. Kelly-Treasurer 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.

Ms. Ehret started by giving an overview of the 2024 budget as it stands from the last meeting. Mayor Brown asked if she added in the two warehouses from Game Creek Road and 25 N. Golfwood Rd. He said they are all done and should start paying. It was stated they all had the final CO's given. Mrs. Kelly said she will look into them. Ms. Ehret said she deducted 10% from everyone's budget and the total is on the current papers she handed out.

Mr. Santogrossi Public Works Manager took the table to review his budget. He started with Streets and Roads. Ms. Ehret mentioned the salary line also had an adjustment due to an error in the formula. Line by line the Committee reviewed the budget and took deductions where they felt it was needed. Mr. Santogrossi discussed with the Committee blinking signs for S. DuPont Road and one on PV-Aub Road by the Sandy Ridge crossing to the school. He said the cost is about \$6,000 each. Mayor Brown asked if the County can pay for these. Mr. Pelura asked about a sign by the Collage. Mr. Pelura asked about all the vehicles at public works that are broken down. Mr. Santogrossi said he spoke to Mr. Pine a few months back about them.

Recycling was addressed next. No changes were made to this budget. The Committee brought up street sweeping in Oldmans Township. Mr. Pelura said they only wanted it done two or three times a year. Mr. Santogrossi said it is part of the Stormwater assessment and it has to be done a few times a year.

Solid Waste was looked at and no changes were made. Buildings and Grounds was looked at next. He was asked if the contract for the cleaning people could be extended to the end of the year and not end in August. The cost for the dog park was discussed. Mr. Pelura said it should only be mulch and bags at this point. Copy machines lease was looked at and reduced. Mr. Pine was looking into a new lease. Ms. Ehret said street signs can go in Capital. Roads were discussed for paving and oil and stone. Mayor Brown said to speak to Mr. Bibeau about School House Lane first. The other roads are Briar Lane and Lupine Lane, Wintergreen Lane. There is an 18-inch pipe on C Street that is clogged and the road floods. Mr. Santogrossi said he needs a new head (smaller) for the jetter. Mayor Brown asked if he could borrow one. Ms. Ehret mentioned the I-Bank for loans for infrastructure, stormwater and such. She said the Engineer would have to be included. She said it is ½ interest free. Before Mr. Santogrossi left the meeting he mentioned he is no longer on our insurance and asked for a increase to his salary. Ms. Ehret said an ordinance would have to be done to offer a payout for opting out of insurance. At 9:13 Mr. Santogrossi left the meeting.

At 9:17 Ms. Hill Assessor took the table. Ms. Hill discussed the reevaluation, she discussed why we are doing and how it will help. She said there are booklets that she will copy and put in each of their mailboxes. The notice can also go on the website and Channel 9. Mayor Brown said it

is usually 1/3 up, 1/3 down and 1/3 stay the same. Ms. Hill said when the assessment goes up the taxes should go down. She mentioned the last reval done she received a stipend for the extra work done. She asked if she could get this again. It was \$12,000. Ms. Ehret said this is an Emergency Appropriation done for the Reval. Ms. Hills budget was looked over and a few adjustments were made. She was given the go on getting RFP's started. Mr. Pelura asked if she needed any assistance in her office due to the reval. She mentioned having someone from the Township help her out.

Next was the Fire Department. Ted Stranahan Sr. took his seat at the table. He started with discussing the new fire truck that was ordered a while ago will be in mid-2025. He said he kept his budget the same except for vehicle repair. He said they are trying to keep their heads about water with repairs. The vehicles are all old and repairs are needed. Mr. Stranahan discussed the brush truck and the grant they applied for a new one. Ms. Ehret asked if he could provide the LOSAP members who qualify as soon as possible. Mr. Pelura said he met with Mr. Stranahan with our Industrial Commission Executive Director and Redevelopment Attorney to get a wish list from the Fire Department. With future construction Mr. Stranahan said we will need a truck with a longer ladder, he said a large fan to vent out buildings from smoke. He said these items can also go on the Capital list along with a trailer that holds two boats. Mr. Stranahan mentioned tools and Mrs. Shaw said they were purchased last year. These items will be looked into to see if any money is still remaining.

Mr. Stranahan mentioned a State Fire Marshall. He said this can be done inhouse. Mayor Brown said to put a proposal together and the program information for the Committee to review. Mrs. Shaw asked him how can the Fire Department make money to help with some of these purchases. Think about that.

Ted Stranahan Jr addressed the ambulance situation. He said he is working on the paid ambulance service. He said he feels it may take a year to get all the pieces in place. On his budget he spoke of vehicle maintenance as being a large problem. He said they are sending three people to EMT school. Mayor Brown asked if they tell the trainees that they have to work for three years or pay for the schooling back. That is in our policy. Under travel expense he said this is for the bridge. We use to go through free but not anymore. Pins for the gas at public works needs to be looked at. He said they only have two pins. He went on to review his Capital. He said the tools they have are very old and outdated. He mentioned air bags at a cost of about \$19,000 but they will last about 10 to 15 years.

Lastly, Bryan Johnson with Fire Business came to the table. He requested getting two laptops so they can work more efficiently. He also would like to see cameras and extra lighting around the building. He received a quote from Crist Electric. He said the generator needs maintenance.

Mrs. Shaw left the meeting at 12:07 pm.

He said they would like to see the building painted and fixed up flashings. A new HVAC system and all new duct work. Key fobs need to be replaced. Mr. Johnson mentioned the equipment that removed the fumes from the trucks while in the bays needs to be replaced. This can be done in stages if needed. The Committee asked him about renting the building out to help pay for some of the items they need. Mr. Johnson said he will have to discuss this with everyone else. The Committee discussed the cost to rent the hall and to put together an application with the help of our Insurance Company. Mr. Johnson went on to discuss fitness passes to Jersey Fitness. This would be a good incentive for new members. He moved on to discuss the problems they had with the company who sealed their floors in the hall. Mayor Brown said to speak to our Solicitor

and have him write a letter. Mrs. Kelly said the floor is still under warranty. Lastly, Mr. Johnson spoke about a storage container. He asked to have the land leveled by Public Works. He said he has not heard from them as of yet. The container is 8x8.6x20. The Committee said he should address this to the Zoning Officer. He also asked about a mini cutter, the same as the Police have to open doors.

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. Bomba to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Johnson. Motion passed with four affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

3-6-2024
Approved:


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk