

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 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, T. Pine-Administrator 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. She said we started at 9.5% increase and have gotten it down to 4.5. She said she moved money around to get to this amount. She mentioned the 10% across the board which was around \$100,000. She mentioned instead of the 10% across the board she suggested taking \$100,000 from the fund balance to balance the budget. Ms. Ehret mentioned the Capital Improvement Fund of \$237,000. She said we were going to put \$100,000 to make it \$337,000. She said she can take \$35,000 out to make our increase 4.0 %. Mayor Brown asked about the estimated warehouses PILOT money. Ms. Ehret said the PILOT went into effect in October of 2023. Per the agreement it will not kick in until October of 2024. She suggested not using it until the beginning of 2025. Ms. Ehret said she feels we did good and gave a recap of what has happened so far. We started at 9.5% we are currently at 4.5 with \$230,000 cuts to budget appropriations. With \$35,000 from Capital Improvement Fund will bring this down to 3.9%.

Ms. Ehret mentioned there was the Police settlement and retro next year which cost \$235,000. We had to increase our ambulance contract by 150,000, the statutory items keep going up and we lost one million from the CoGen revenue. After all discussion the Committee all agreed on the 3.9% tax increase.

The Committee moved on to address the Capital requests. Ms. Ehret said there is \$300,000 in the Capital from last year left. Most is for Streets and Roads. The Committee discussed the roads for repair from last year. Springfield was discussed and it was suggested the warehouse that is going to build repair the road. It was stated they will do from their entrance to Route 130 but not the whole road.

Salaries were discussed next. Mr. Pelura mentioned needing money in the budget for a grounds keeper/rec. employee. He asked for \$30,000 in the budget for a 25 hour a week person. They would work 9 months out of the year. Clerk Proffitt mentioned to the Committee that in the past the Administration received the same increase as the Police or Public Works. They are getting 3 ½ % but we are getting 2 ½ %. This needs to be looked into. Mr. Pelura mentioned a Certified weed killer person also. Ms. Ehret mentioned she passes the QPA exam. Mr. Pelura said we are currently under contract with the County of Salem but we will keep that in mind. Mr. Pelura asked what is the difference from the 2 ½ and 3 ½ %. Ms. Ehret worked the numbers up and said the total amount is \$13,000 for 3 ½ % increases. The Committee discussed the Deputy EMO and that he will need 24 credits to be certified in that position. There was a lot more discussion of salaries. Dr. Johnson had to leave the meeting at 9:45 am.

The Committee addressed the storage trailer for the Fire Department. Mr. Santogrossi is going to prepare a spot for the trailer and Mr. Pelura said he will provide crushed concrete to put on the spot. The heating and air-conditioning can be done over two years. This makes it \$44,000 each year. The Plymo Vent can be done in stages at \$40,000 over three years. The Fobs and paint will be kept on the list. The Capital from last year will be looked at to cover the cost of some of their items.

Mayor Brown asked Mr. Pine to look into the size of the printers and see if everyone needs what they have. Mr. Pine then asked for a water filtration system for the Township. He said it would be \$75.00 per month to be put in the kitchen. Mr. Pelura said he does not think even with the filtration system people here will use it. After some discussion, the Committee decided not at this time.

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 Mr. Bomba. Motion passed with four affirmative votes. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 pm.

3-20-2024
Approved:


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk