

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BUDGET MEETING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

The Budget Meeting of Monday, November 8, 2010 was brought to order at 6:00 PM by President Sylvia J. Martinelli. A quorum was present as follows:

Mrs Martinelli Ms Fialla
Mr. Padula Mr. Costa Mr. Szoko

The Board was provided with new copies of the Proposed 2011 General Fund Budget. Total revenues and expenditures increased by \$2,500 from the previous proposal which was presented on October 25, 2010. The Township has now received information from Municipal Employers Insurance Trust (MEIT) relative to increases in health insurance for 2011. The increase amounted to approximately 7% across the Board. The Township initially budgeted a 10% increase in health care. The difference between what had been budgeted at 10% and what is now budgeted at 7% amounts to \$45,300. Line item 438.210 (paving) was thus increased by the total amount of the decrease in health insurance.

Once again, there were no significant changes to report in any of the other funds of the Township.

Commissioner Szoko questioned why there is an increase in wages shown in the budget, when the manager stated that there will be no increase in wages. Mrs. Bradley explained that there are 2 employees in the police department and one employee in the Public Works Department who are in the middle of their hourly rate steps. These employees will receive an increase as required by the contract upon their anniversary dates. This increase is the increase to the next level of years of service. In addition, employees with more than five years of service receive longevity. Even though wages are frozen, employees' longevity, which is specified by contract will increase based upon their previous years' earnings and their number of years of service. It should be noted that if an increase in wages is granted either through arbitration or through negotiations, funds to pay for that increase will either need to be taken from the Emergency Contingency Fund allotment which is earmarked for 2012 or additional concessions will need to be made from the General Fund budget.

Commissioner Fialla questioned whether or not the budget could be reopened in January if increases were granted. Mr. Rushford stated that the budget cannot be reopened in January because it is not an election year. However, the budget can be reopened if estimated revenues and/or expenditures change in the aggregate by 10%, or in any one line item by 25%. Essentially, the Board would need to begin the process again, which would push the new budget adoption into January.

Commissioner Padula questioned the need to continue to retain funds in the Emergency Management Fund. These funds were initially earmarked to replace radios for police, fire and public works in 1999, in recognition of the County's desire to change over to an 800 system. The Volunteer Fire Companies have already purchased radios and the police are on the same system as the County. Public Works is on low band. Mrs. Bradley is to review information received from the County relative to this issue and report back to the Board. The total amount of funding available in the Emergency Contingency Fund for 2011 is \$49,000.

(288-10) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary