

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BUDGET MEETING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013

The Budget Meeting of Monday, November 25, 2013 was brought to order at 6:00PM by President Sylvia J. Martinelli. A quorum was present as follows:

Mrs. Martinelli Ms. Criner
 Mr. Costa Mr. Wilson Mr. Boyd

General Fund:

Mrs. Bradley reviewed the 2013 Real Estate Tax Assessment and the establishment of the millage rate with the Board. Based upon the 2013 County Assessed Valuation as of November 22nd, the Township’s total current year real estate tax collections are \$120,673 under the Commonwealth Anti-Windfall cap. Therefore, it will not be necessary to escrow funds and/or reimburse residents. At this time, the Township is continuing to see decreases in the 2013 assessed value. For instance, over the last month, total assessed value decreased by over \$275,000. What is concerning as we move into 2014 is that most of the commercial tax appeals have not yet been heard. The 2014 millage rate has been established at 5.674, which is one mill greater than the 2013 millage rate. It is anticipated that this increase will bring in an additional \$356,000 in 2014, but the continued shifting of the assessed valuation, and the threat of declining commercial values is concerning. At the end of 2014, we may find that a one-mill increase equated to a predominantly lateral shift instead of an increase in taxation overall. The assessed value of properties in the Township has decreased by \$28,818,450 (6.5%) since the values were established in late 2012.

The 2013 budget is balanced with revenues and expenditures equaling \$5,168,200, an increase from the November 11th budget meeting of \$25,200. Changes from the last meeting were presented as follows:

The following changes have been made to the 2014 General Fund Budget as of this date.

Account	From	To	Comment
380.200 Beg. Balance	\$95,300	\$130,300	See next chart
392.180 Trf from Emer. Cont.	\$447,200	\$437,400	Additional 2013 carry forward
410.151 Police Workers Comp	\$107,900	\$119,300	2014 SWIF premium
430.151 DPW Workers Comp	\$46,000	\$59,800	2014 SWIF premium

Detailed breakdown of change in 380.200 (Beginning Balance)

Account	2013 Projected From	2013 Projected To	Amount Increase / (Decrease)	Net Totals
310.210 Earned Income Tax	\$750,000	\$775,000	\$25,000	
321.800 CATV Franchise Fees	\$152,000	\$154,200	\$2,200	
331.110 Fines – State Refund	\$4,000	\$250,000	(\$600)	
331.120 Fines – Local Police	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$200	
362.110 Sale of Accident Reports	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$200	\$27,000
430.156 DPW Health Insurance	\$160,000	\$150,000	(\$10,000)	
434.361 DPW Vehicle Maint.	\$28,000	\$30,000	\$2,000	(\$8,000)
Total:				<u>\$35,000</u>

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First reading of the General Fund Budget Ordinance is on the agenda for the Commissioners meeting scheduled to occur immediately following the public hearing tonight. Final adoption has been advertised for December 16, 2013.

Combined Sewer Fund:

Based upon current projections, the Sewer Fund beginning balance will be \$150,000 as opposed to an originally estimated \$70,000. Therefore, Beginning Balance and EPA Mandates were increased by \$80,000 each. The Total Sewer Fund Budget is \$1,452,200 and includes an increase in sewer user's fees from \$1.75 to \$2.50 per thousand gallons of water.

Emergency Contingency Fund:

The Emergency Contingency Fund was modified in response to the additional carry forward balance in the General Fund. Because the Township now anticipates carrying forward \$130,300, the total transfer from Contingency was reduced to \$437,400. This allows just \$22,700 to remain in Contingency to address any emergency situations. The total budget is set at \$460,100.

Industrial Development Authority/IDA Fund:

Because the Township has not received written confirmation of the commitment of the IDA Board in donating funds for 2013 and/or 2014, the IDA Budget has been revised to allow for a spending plan that includes the donations and a spending plan that does not include the donations. The budget with funding would be \$65,700 and \$35,700 without grant funding.

Police Pension Plan:

The Act 205 Distribution (600-63389) was increased from \$105,000 to \$110,000 to be consistent with the General Fund budget. The Employer Contribution (600-63388) was decreased from \$279,000 to \$274,000 accordingly. The total budget remains \$436,100.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary