

The Board's Minutes of the East Donegal Township Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting
Held on October 19, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Donegal Township was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 4:30 PM in the East Donegal Township Municipal Building, 190 Rock Point Road, Marietta, PA 17547.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tom Jones.

Supervisor Jones led with a Prayer and Pledge to the Flag.

Roll call of Supervisors: Present were Thomas M. Jones, Chairman; Allen D. Esbenshade, Vice Chairman; John E. Murphy, Jr., Supervisor and Jeffrey Butler, Township Manager. Also attending were Jodi Diaz, Township Finance Officer and Jake Bair, Township Public Works Director.

Old Business.

None.

New Business.

Discussion of 2021 Township General Fund Budget

Mr. Butler highlighted the proposed timeline for consideration and adoption of the 2022 Budget. It's anticipated that a preliminary budget will be approved for public review at the November 4, 2021, meeting of the Board and that adoption of the budget would occur at the December 2, 2021, meeting of the Board. Should revisions require additional time for consideration, the budget must be adopted before the end of the year. The budget information prepared for this meeting did not propose an increase in the current Township tax rate of 3.1165 mills.

Over 80% of the revenue for the General Fund comes from taxes collected. There are four taxes collected that provide Township revenue. They are Real Estate Property tax, Earned Income Tax, Local Services Tax, and Real Estate Transfer tax. The largest portion being Real Estate Property Tax, estimated to generate \$2,000,000.00.

Another significant source of revenue for 2022 are grants. The Township has been awarded two grants for the Evans Run Stormwater project. The total of these two grants is \$400,000.00. In addition, the reimbursement from the \$20,000.00 park master plan grant should be received in 2022.

On the expenditures side, Public Safety, specifically police, remains a significant expense. Although the Susquehanna Regional Police Department budget has not been finalized, contractual cost is anticipated to be close to \$1,800,000.00.

Under the Fire line items, the Township's donations made to the Maytown East Donegal

Township Fire Department, and the other departments that service the Township, remains at the current levels. There was general discussion regarding the anticipated purchase of a new Rescue Unit and potential donations to the Department to cover its financing. The Board also discussed the length of time remaining to payoff the loan taken by the Department for the addition to the fire station and the loan secured by the Department for the recent purchase of a new engine. The Board suggested budgeting an additional \$100,000.00 in 2022 as a donation to the Department for the new Rescue Unit.

Mr. Bair presented the line items within the Public Works categories. There are no significant equipment purchase proposed for 2022. However, its proposed that one dump truck will have a bed replacement completed in 2022.

Public Works projects include stormwater management improvements to Coffee Goss Road and the realignment of Coffee Goss Road needed to accommodate these stormwater improvements. These projects are to be done in conjunction with the Bridle Path residential development currently under construction.

The most significant stormwater project proposed is the Evans Run stream restoration project. This project, done in cooperation with Marietta Borough, is planed to address the Township's MS4 reduction requirements under the current NPDES permit. Other stormwater improvements include the Longwood Square detention basin and improvements to Eleanor Drive.

Tree removal and bank work is to be completed along the Township's portion of Donegal Springs Road. This will be done in anticipation of road improvements being completed in 2023. Other projects include additional alley paving in Maytown and improvements to the Long Lane bridge in the area of Route 441.

The Board discussed to potential of changing vehicle access to Long Lane from Route 441. Staff indicated a meeting with residents and businesses along the section of Long Lane between Rout 441 and Route 23 will be scheduled to discuss potential changes to Long Lane.

Mr. Butler identified projects proposed within Township parks. Projects include the improvement to driveways and parking in the Chickies Creek Day Use Area. Other projects included the resurfacing of a basketball court, surveillance cameras at Riverfront and Fuhrman Parks and the resurfacing of the skateboard park.

In addition to running the Township's summer playground program, the budget incudes funding to become a participating member of GEARS. As a participating member, Township residents are able to take advantage of a discounted rate for programs, more programs will be offered in the Township, GEARS will coordinate facility use in the Township, provide support to the Township's Music In The Park program, as well as staff and run the summer playground program.

Mr. Butler indicated that the budget information presented incorporates a 5% pay rate increase for Township employees. Due to the loss of the part-time public works member that was mostly dedicated to park maintenance, it provides an opportunity to evaluate public works staffing. However, no additional staff positions are proposed in the budget for 2022.

Mr. Butler provided the Board with the list of projects to be done utilizing Highway Aid Fund monies. These included widening and paving of the Township's portion of Colebrook Road. In addition, oil and chip treatment is proposed for Vinegar Ferry Road, Stellar Drive, Quasar Drive, Kelly Avenue, Janet Avenue and Oak Lane. Winter salt purchases and roadway line painting will also be done using Highway Aid funds.

Mr. Butler discussed the increases in costs to provide trash/recycling services. The hauler contracted cost is increasing by \$9.14 per customer. That is on top of the \$30.00 per customer increase incurred by the Township last year. In addition, the tipping fees paid to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority, the fees paid for yard and leave waste, and the cost of recycling bins and kraft bags are all increasing. As a result, the cost to residents for the service will need to be re-evaluated.

The Township is in receipt of the first payment from the American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. Butler provided an overview of allowable expenditures under the Act. For 2022, it's proposed that funds received would be used for loss revenue recovery, public health and safety measured and stormwater infrastructure.

Mr. Butler stated that a draft preliminary budget will be prepared based on the information gathered from the meeting and the receipt of refined cost estimates. It's anticipated that the final preliminary budget will be prepared for the November 4, 2021, meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Esbenshade to adjourn the special meeting at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey L. Butler, Township Secretary