

**RYE TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISORS' BUDGET MEETING
October 18, 2007**

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PRESENT: Chairman Ron Evans, Vice-Chair, Charles Kunkle, Supervisor, Sharon Cole-Engdahl, Daisy Lightner, Secretary/ Treasurer, Corporal Clint Shoop, Zoning Officer, Ron Cree & Robert Lightner. Phyllis Page entered the meeting at approximately 8:12 PM.

The meeting was held at the municipal building and called to order at 7:00 PM. Chairman Ron Evans convened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: No citizen participation was offered.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

The Secretary/Treasurer provided the Board with an updated October 18, 2007 fund balance report for the General and the Solid Waste Funds, which shows the MTD-month to date and YTD-year to date figures.

The Board began their review with the General Fund expenses beginning where they left off at the end of the October 4, 2007 budget meeting at account 01.457.540.

The following items were reviewed and discussed:

1. The Recreation Board presented the Board with a proposed budget for 2008 of \$7,029.00. The amount was decreased to \$ 6,650.00.
2. The annual contributions to the Sr. Citizen Center, the Perry Co. Literacy Council, Perry Co. Council of the Arts remain the same
3. The Secretary/Treasurer noted she is talking with the sales rep attempting to acquire a lower cost for the soda provided for the soda machine.
4. Account 01.483.30 non-uniform pension paid for by the Township represents 80% of the MMO with the other 20% of the expense paid for by the Solid Waste Fund.
5. Health insurance was budgeted with an increase of 5% for half of the year, which would cover an annual increase of 10%. Health insurance with Highmark Blueshield renews June 1, 2008. Supervisor Cole Engdahl reminded the Secretary/Treasurer to remember to check into the intergovernmental insurance program utilized by Newville before the next renewal.
6. No transfer to Capital Reserve for bridges will be budgeted in 2008 since the larger Idle Road culvert project was completed over budget this year.
7. 01.421.00- Humane Society. This account pays for the annual contract for the Humane Society to pick up and take stray animals from residents of Rye Township. With the increase proposed for 2008, the Board reviewed and discussed the Humane Society agreement at great length. The cost for 2008 is \$614.00 with \$75.00 per call for emergencies. Concern was expressed by Corporal Shoop with the increased cost of the contract & the lack of service provided under the contract. He further noted that as much as possible he utilizes the County Dog Law Enforcement Officer, John Briner. Upon due discussion, the Board proposed ~\$700.00 for this expense. It was the consensus of the Board to talk with local kennel owner, Carl Bitting, to discuss the possibility of entering into an agreement in 2008 to house strays at his kennel when the Humane Society is closed or operation is suspended. Supervisor Evans said he would contact Carl Bitting.

Corporal Shoop offered to contact the Humane Society and request a representative attend the November supervisors' meeting to discuss the details of the proposed 2008 contract with the Board.

The Board began their review of the Solid Waste Fund. The two main sources of revenue generated by the Fund are from a small amount of interest and the collection charges paid by residents for trash collection fees. An increase in the trash rates effective for January 2008 was discussed. The Secretary/Treasurer provided two separate balanced budgets for consideration as follows:

1. Total proposed of \$177,196.00, with no increase to the residential trash rate, but includes a \$15.00 per quarter increase for the commercial rates. Account # 09.427.231 Vehicle diesel, license, permits is understated.
2. Total proposed of \$180,296.00 expenses and revenues, which includes:
 - a. \$50.00 / quarter trash rate for residential customers-
\$1.00 per quarter increase
 - b. \$38.25/ quarter for the senior trash rates-
\$.50 per quarter increase

With approximately 754 residential trash bills mailed quarterly, the proposed increase generates \$3,016 additional per year.

With approximately 125 senior trash bills mailed quarter the proposed increase generates an additional \$250.00 per year.

TOTAL net yield from the proposed increases is approximately \$3,266 additional revenue for the fund.

Upon due discussion, The Board unanimously proposed to accept the small fee for service increase for 2008 as follows:

- a. \$50.00 – residential quarterly trash rate
- b. \$38.75- senior quarterly trash rate

The Board directed the Secretary/Treasurer to prepare the appropriate resolutions for review and approval for advertising at the October 22, 2007 supervisors' meeting.

They reviewed and discussed each expense account in the Solid Waste Fund beginning with account number 09.403.310 to and including 09.492.30. The following items were noted:

1. Four tires will be needed for the garbage truck next year. Evans said the recaps purchased this year appear to be functioning well.
2. Secretary/Treasurer computed the Solid Waste fund's percentage of expense for the non-uniform pension and the health insurance premiums at 20%. It was noted the 2008 MMO for the non-uniform pension decreased therefore, the expense account decreased accordingly.
3. The expense for tipping fees will remain the same.
4. The expense line item in the amount of \$1,400 for payment of a 10% match for the purchase of two recycling dumpsters through the County's application for a DEP Municipal Recycling Grant will remain since the monies were not received to date.
5. The salary expense account was increased to \$31,000. The overtime salary expense account was increased to \$14,300.00 for a combined total of \$44,400.

6. \$10,000 will be transferred to the Capital Reserve fund next year in anticipation of the purchase of a new garbage truck.

The Board accepted the proposed Solid Waste Fund Budget presented in the amount of \$180,296.00, which is an overall increase from last year's budget of 2.325%.

Miscellaneous Discussion on General Fund Expenses

1. Corporal Shoop recommended a separate line item in the Police budget for Miscellaneous Public Relations Supplies, which would include purchase of pencils, stickers, Halloween bags and the goodies handed out at Christmas time.
The Board agreed to add an additional expense line item in the police accounts for public relation supplies in the amount of \$300.00.
2. Phyllis Page entered the meeting at 8:12 PM as the Board was beginning to discuss the Administrative non-union salaries, which includes the full and part time office employees & part time code enforcement/zoning officer salary.

Discussion ensued. Chairman Evans recommended a 4% increase for the Administrative non-union employees, stating the police department employee was awarded a 4% increase for 2008 and the road employees will naturally also request a 4% when their union contract renews in 2009. Therefore, Evans felt it fair to grant the administrative non-union employees a 4% increase.
Supervisor Cole-Engdahl disagreed with 4% stating it was way too high. Evans said the police received 4%. Cole still disagreed stating the police are totally different.
Zoning Officer Cree said he felt a 4% raise was deserved and appropriate.
Supervisor Cole-Engdahl said she was only discussing the office and did not understand why several employees were discussed together.
Supervisor Evans said his recommendation includes all non-union administrative employees, including the Zoning Officer. Kunkle offered that 3.5% is what he wrote down. Cole said she felt 3.5% was fair since that is the amount of raise she will receive. Evans felt that a 3.5% increase is unfair. Kunkle provided no further input. No further discussion ensued on the Administrative raises.
3. Discussion ensued on expenses to address ongoing drainage issues on several areas in the Township. The purchase of a leaf vac for leaf removal in the gutters was discussed
4. Since the Secretary/Treasurer has the necessary information to complete the proposed 2008 budget, the board agreed that the next scheduled budget meeting for November 1, 2007 would not be necessary.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING: Chairman Evans made a motion and Kunkle seconded to adjourn the budget meeting at 8:29 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Daisy Lightner
Secretary/Treasurer