

**RYE TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISORS' BUDGET MEETING
November 6, 2008**

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PRESENT: Chairman Ronald Evans, Vice-Chair, Robert Lightner, Supervisor Sharon Cole Engdahl, Daisy Lightner, Secretary/ Treasurer. .

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. The meeting was tape recorded to aid with the preparation of minutes.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Since no citizens were present, no citizen participation was offered.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: The Secretary/Treasurer provided the Board with an updated budget worksheet and an updated fund balance report for the General and the Solid Waste Funds. The Solid Waste Fund is balanced without an increase in the trash collection rates.

The Board began their discussion with the outstanding items listed on the agenda.

a. Humane Society Annual Membership

The Secretary/Treasurer contacted the Humane Society executive director, Amy Kaunas, Esquire for details on how they calculated the \$2,194.31 expense for the 2009 animal protection agreement. Kaunas explained that the costs for a cat are \$131.75; a dog at \$118.45 and \$257.96 for a pit bull. Rye Township's three year average was 12 cats, 3 dogs and 1 pit bull.

Discussion ensued on the proposal and the limited options available. Chairman Evans offered that the Board consider charging a portion of the fee back to residents who take the animals to the shelter. The Humane Society would have to provide the Township a monthly accounting with the name and address of the resident(s) who brought the animal(s) to the shelter. The Board needs more research and the Humane Society's cooperation in order to institute this fee. In consideration of time restraints, the Board's consensus was to adjust the budget to include the costs for the contract. The approval of the 2009 agreement will be added to the November agenda. However, the Board instructed the Secretary/Treasurer that following the approval of the contract, she pay the 2009 amount in payments and not in one lump sum.

Follow up:

- 1) Contact John Briner, County Dog Enforcement Officer to inquire if the County has a contract with the Humane Society or where they take their stray dogs prior to the November Board meeting.
- 2) Contact the Humane Society regarding a quarterly accounting of residents who have brought in animals to the Humane Society.
- 3) As a delegate, Supervisor Cole Engdahl offered to check with the Capital Region COG to, in the future, negotiate with the Humane Society for their annual contracts with municipalities and boroughs.

The Board agreed to vary from the printed agenda and discussed d. Pension monies.

d. Operating Cash -Pension monies Distributed to General Fund

The Board made a motion at the October 27, 2008 meeting to reimburse the General Fund with all of the State Aid received for the pensions. This decision provided the General Fund with additional operating cash. The Secretary/Treasurer recommended the Board allocate a portion of the operating cash and add to the Capital Reserve, General Budget CD. This would assist with balancing the budget with reserves in light of the anticipated additional expenses for the Humane Society etc.

As discussed and approved, the Secretary/Treasurer will prepare a resolution to transfer \$2,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund, General Budget CD for the November Board meeting.

e. Union Negotiation Meeting Scheduled-November 20 at 5:30 PM.

Discussion ensued on the contract proposal as follows:

1. Salary rate increases in light of the economy
2. The outsourcing of trash collection to a contracted hauler
3. Language in the union contract permitting this outsourcing
4. Changing the hours of work with daylight savings time to 7-3:00 PM
Safety and liability reasons and better productivity
5. Costs for health insurance
6. Clothing allowance
7. Splitting the trash route into two days for personal safety and liability reasons
Lamb's Gap Road was suggested as the cut off for the first day of trash collection. The 24/7 recycling program appears to be successful and it is hoped this will further lead to a reduction in trash collection.
8. Employees meeting with union personal during working hours
9. New hire, John Ritter's clothing allowance
Since Ritter was hired in May, the Board's consensus was to permit him one half of the \$200 clothing allowance. The Secretary/Treasurer will notify Ritter via a memo.

The Board moved the discussion back to the remaining items on the agenda as follows:

b. Costs for Repair or Purchase of Heater in Bay

Supervisor Evans said he had some health problems and did not get to check on the heater repairs. Fellow board members agreed to address this concern with either a repair or a replacement.

c. Police Propane Heat – 01.410.230

Supervisor Lightner said he could not locate the thermostat. Chairman Evans said it may be against the wall and offered to look at the heater.

f. Office Closed – Veterans’ Day – Tuesday, November 11, 2008

g. Police Department

Discussed concerns with the police schedule and accountability of the officer to the Board. Public Safety Superintendent Lightner would like to meet with the Corporal and the entire Board to discuss these concerns near the end of the year or the beginning of 2009.

h. Request for Proposals-Engineers and Solicitors

The Board discussed sending out RFP’s for both of these professional services- Solicitors and Engineers. Supervisor Cole Engdahl suggested Dan Altland as solicitor. Supervisor Lightner suggested Geo Technical Services, GTS, the firm where resident, and Planning Commission member and former Township supervisor, Tom Graupensperger works.

The consensus was that competition is good. Send out RFP’s to GTS and to Dan Altland, Esquire.

The Secretary/Treasurer will revise the draft budget and make adjustments as discussed to balance the General Fund Budget with funds available in the Capital Reserve Fund- General Budget CD. The 2009 Budget proposes no tax increase. With the economy as it is, the Board trimmed expenses where they could so its residents do not face an additional Township tax increase for 2009.

Copies of the final budgets will be distributed to the Board for tentative approval and advertisement and available for public review for at least 20 days at the November 24, 2008. Final approval of the 2009 budget will be on the December 22, 2008 meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING: With no further discussion on the budget at this time, Cole Engdahl made a motion and Lightner seconded to adjourn the budget meeting at 8:23 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Daisy Lightner
Secretary/Treasurer