



SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WORKSHOP & GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING – 10-19-2021

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

The Board of Supervisors of the Township of South Heidelberg met at the Municipal Building for the monthly workshop & general business meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Byrne at 9:00 AM, on October 19, 2021 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MEETING ATTENDEES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman, Thomas R. Byrne
Vice-Chairman, John N. Musante
Secretary, Tiffany L. Billingsley

TOWNSHIP STAFF & ADVISORS

Township Manager, Sean A. McKee
Police Chief, Leon J. Grim
Public Works Manager, Bill Lanza
Township Solicitor, Collin MacFarlane
Township Engineer, Gary Kraft

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

2022 Proposed Budget Final Review

Township Manager Sean McKee reviewed the 2022 Workshop Budget packet with the Board. Mr. McKee provided a review of assessed property values and discussed assessed property values by type as well as average assessed value by type. Mr. McKee provided a comparison of the 2021 budget to projected and noted significant items relating to revenues and expenditures. Mr. McKee next provided the Board with an overview of the 2022 proposed budget showing categories of revenue and expenditures by percentage of the overall proposed budget. Mr. McKee reviewed with the Board each revenue and expenditure category in detail providing the comparison of the 2021 projected end of year to the 2022 proposed budget figure for each category. Mr. McKee discussed with the Board major expenditures which include \$200k for road construction, \$45k for municipal facility repairs, \$45k for a guide rail replacement and \$15k for stormwater management and pipe replacements. Mr. McKee then provided a breakdown of millage in comparison to municipalities in the area.

Mr. McKee stated he had reviewed the requests for increase from the Western Berks Fire Department and Western Berks Ambulance and provided an analysis for review by the Board. Mr. McKee advised that in order to meet the request of the Western Berks Fire Department the Fire tax would need to increase to 1.18 mill (from 0.80 mill) and referenced the increase analysis provided. Mr. McKee also advised that the ambulance tax would need to increase to 0.32 mill (from 0.25 mill) in order to meet the requests from Western Berks Ambulance. Mr. McKee stated that the general fund mill would remain the same at 3.10 mill based on the proposed budget. The Board discussed the increases to the fire and ambulance tax to include the review of information provided by both Western Berks Fire Department and Western Berks Ambulance.

Mr. McKee stated that if the Board was in favor of the proposed budgets and mill, the next step would be to authorize advertisement of the 2022 Proposed Budget at the general business meeting.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Township Financial Report. Mr. McKee referenced his financial report and stated the Township continues to manage expenditures and was pleased with the Township's financial health which will lead to further infrastructure improvements noted in the 2022 proposed budget.

2022 Fee Schedule. Mr. McKee stated that many municipalities will have a fee schedule adopted by resolution that has all fees in one place. Mr. McKee stated the administrative team has been working on the creation of a consolidated fee schedule and provided the Board with that schedule. Mr. McKee stated that if the Board was in favor of the fee schedule the schedule would be adopted as part of a resolution at the reorganization meeting in 2022.

Mr. McKee requested an Executive Session to discuss personal matters relating to the non-uniformed staff.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Incidents/Activity. Chief Grim referenced incidents of significance from his report.

Chief Grim requested an Executive Session to discuss a police arbitration matter.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lanza referenced his report and asked the Board if there were any questions. No comment from the Board.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT

2022 Proposed Road Projects. Engineer Kraft provided the Board with a print out of the 2022 proposed road work. Mr. Kraft stated that development roadways would be the focus as part of the 2022 road projects and would include microsurfacing and a cape seal. Mr. McKee stated that Lower Heidelberg Township conducted similar road work on their development roads and that Supervisor Musante and Public Works Manager Lanza had reviewed that work. Mr. Kraft referenced the years past 2023 to include work on Sportsman Road in 2023 and Texter Mountain Road in 2024 and that moving up the development roads allowed the Township to better align to the budget numbers for 2022. Mr. McKee stated that if the Board was agreeable to the proposed 2022 road projects that he would ask for the Board's authorization to allow Engineer Kraft to advertise for bid which would occur sometime in the January 2022 timeframe. Mr. Musante stated that the bid should state the work is to be done after school dismisses and before it begins.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR REPORT

Wernersville CCC Zoning Appeal. Mr. MacFarlane stated that the Commonwealth requested an extension and that after discussing with Mr. McKee, a 45 day extension was granted to November 1, 2021 relating to the appeal. Mr. McKee stated that with Solicitor George recovering from his medical issues he felt it was wise to grant the appeal to allow Solicitor George time to review materials relating to the appeal upon his return.

Child First Services Appeal. Mr. MacFarlane stated that the Berks County Court of Common Pleas rendered a decision in favor of the Township on October 5, 2021. Mr. MacFarlane stated Child First Services has filed a notice of appeal to the Commonwealth Court. Mr. MacFarlane stated that Judge Rowley will issue an opinion and a briefing would then follow and be scheduled for both the Township and Child First Services.

Mr. MacFarlane had nothing further to report. The Board had no questions.

RECREATION BOARD


Mrs. Billingsley stated the Recreation Board is ready for the upcoming Boo Bash and Movie night scheduled for October 23rd at 5:00PM. Mrs. Billingsley stated the Recreation Board would also begin work on the Holiday events at South Mountain Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Musante, seconded by Mrs Billingsley to adjourn the meeting at 10:45am.


Tiffany L. Billingsley, Secretary/Treasurer