

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020 6:00 PM

The Covington Township Board of Supervisors held its final Budget Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., at the Covington Township Municipal Building, 20 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, PA.

There were present: Thomas M. Yerke, Chairman; John Brostoski, Vice-Chairman; Melissa Kearney, Supervisor; Marshall Peirce, Supervisor; Joseph Setta, Supervisor; Douglas A. Hein, Secretary / Treasurer and Joel M. Wolff, Esquire.

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Yerke opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm
2. **AGENDA:** Supervisor Kearney said the Administrative Actions listed on the agenda should be removed because this was a Budget Work Session, not a Budget Meeting. Discussion was held and Mr. Hein was asked how the meeting was advertised. He produced the ad for Solicitor Wolff to review. The meeting was advertised as a Budget Meeting and it was decided that action could be taken on the items listed on the agenda. **ON MOTION** duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Peirce), and carried 5-0 to accept the agenda as presented. Supervisor Kearney voted to approve as long as the title was changed to Budget Meeting and not Budget Work Session
3. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Yerke stated that the agenda was mislabeled as a Budget Work Session and was actually a Budget Meeting
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bill Willson asked why the Board was advertising for a CPA when it has nothing to do with the budget. Solicitor Wolff said all they are going to do is vote to advertise to appoint a CPA.
5. **LIQUID FUELS FUND / STATE FUND BUDGET:** Mr. Hein reviewed the revenues and expenses. Nobody had any changes. Chairman Yerke said he spoke with Representative Mike Carroll who told him we are in line to get the funding for the Langan Road project.
6. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET:** Mr. Hein reviewed the revenue items. He stated this will be the 22nd year without a tax increase. Real Estate taxes are budgeted conservatively and asked if the Board wanted to change it. They agreed to increase the budgeted amount by \$5,000 to \$490,000. Mr. Hein asked if anyone had questions; Supervisor Kearney did. She asked how Mr. Hein came up with the budget numbers. He explained he reviews the past several years and compares them to what has occurred in the current year to date. She asked questions about several revenue line items. Mr. Hein stated he was following the DCED chart of accounts, correcting the Township's account structure to make it easier to see specific items. Mr. Hein then reviewed the expense items beginning with salaries that he stated the budget shows the increases as discussed. Discussion was held about the DPW Director wages to be decreased to \$25/hour for the new hire. Mr. Hein said that the healthcare and dental line items would need to be increased to account for the DPW Director taking insurance and reduced for taking out Mr. Yerke's Medicare reimbursement. Supervisor Kearney said she had issues with Chris Balish getting an additional \$2/hour, the Secretary/Treasurer getting a 3% increase and had issues with the amounts given to the Police. Extensive discussion was held about the wages. **ON MOTION** duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Setta), and carried 4-1 with Supervisor Kearney against to approve the wage increases included in the budget. Ms. Kearney had questions on several other expense line items. She clarified that she was voting for increases except those for Chris Balish and the Secretary/Treasurer.
7. **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**
 - a. Advertise proposed 2021 Budget – **ON MOTION** duly made (Setta), seconded (Brostoski), and carried 5-0 to advertise the proposed 2021 budget.
 - b. Advertise intent to appoint CPA to perform 2020 annual audit – Supervisor Peirce asked why we have to advertise for an auditor since we have appointed auditors. It was explained they can, but the Township chooses to advertise for a CPA. Solicitor Wolff said the Board is only authorizing the advertising. **ON MOTION** duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Setta), and carried 4-1 with Supervisor Kearney against to advertise intent to appoint a CPA to perform the 2020 annual audit.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Roz Davis asked if the Township was getting the 5% discount on the Worker's Comp insurance for having a safety committee. Mr. Hein explained there was a lot involved with it and Mr. Yerke said it was not cost effective to do. Roz also asked if the difference between what Chris Balish and John Bauman were

being paid was because John does not take the health insurance. She was told it was. Roz also asked Mr. Hein to break up the minutes into paragraphs.

- 9. **ADJOURNMENT:** ON MOTION duly made (Brostoski), seconded (Kearney), and carried 5-0 to adjourn at 7:05 pm.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Hein, Secretary*

APPROVED: