

The stated Preliminary Budget meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township was held on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Ring presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners WACHTER, AGOSTINE, SCHREIBER, JAY O'CONNOR, BENZAK, LUKER, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, MYERS, WEILHEIMER, LYNOTT, MICHAEL O'CONNOR, DIJOSEPH, CARLIN, RING

Assistant Township Manager LAHAZA
Township Solicitor HERDER
Chief of Police KELLY
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO
Director of Parks & Recreation WENDELL
Superintendent of W.W.T.P. LEBER
Finance Director MATIZA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BUDGET OVERVIEW:

Ms. Matiza said the First Class Township Code requires that the Board take action 30 days prior to the adoption of the budget.

The General Fund budget of \$34,349,008 has been modified by \$3,225,000, which is a result of transferring \$3 million dollars from our Fund Balance into our Capital Account to fund drainage projects at various locations in the Township, and we wanted to supplement the overlay road program for \$225,000.

The general purpose millage will stay the same at 3.07 mills, but the Fire Tax millage will be increased from .47 mills to .527 mills and this increase will be about \$9 on an annual basis for the average household assessment at \$150,000.

In the Sewer Fund budget, we have \$8,262,462, which includes an operating increase of 3.2% and an overall increase of 15.62%. Over 12% of that increase is directly related to a Bond Issue that needs to be floated in order for the Township to meet the mandate of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade by mid-2008.

The median household usage of 60,000 gallons will see a \$36.00 annual increase on sewer.

The Refuse Department use to be part of the general fund, but this year the Board decided to pull it out and make it its own enterprise fund. We have a budget of \$5,906,834 and it is not even a 1% increase over last year. Last year, we took the last step in moving the residential refuse fee to 100%, which was \$269 per household and we are proposing a \$1 decrease to \$268 per household.

The Highway Aid budget of \$1.2 million dollars is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for highway maintenance.

The Workers' Compensation Fund budget of \$432,000 is funded by transfers from the general fund, the sewer fund and the refuse fund.

The Tuition Reimbursement Fund budget of \$14,000 is interest earnings on a \$250,000 restricted reserve, which is set aside for educational payments, reimbursement-style to employees that are set forth in labor agreements.

The budgets can still be modified after this evening with two limitations. Expenditures cannot exceed a 10% increase in aggregate or any one line item may not exceed a 25% increase without the need to re-advertise the budget. The budgets for the capital projects and the road overlays are going to be included on the December Public Works Committee and will be adopted the same evening as the budget.

GENERAL FUND:

Commissioner DiJoseph made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Carlin to adopt Preliminary General Fund Budget for calendar year 2007 of \$34,349,008. The proposed Preliminary Budget reflects a balanced expenditure and revenue budget. The General Fund Budget includes a proposal to maintain the general purpose millage at 3.07 mills and increase the fire tax millage from .47 mills to .527 mills for fire department support programs for the calendar year of 2007.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

SEWERING OPERATING FUND:

Commissioner Carlin made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Agostine to adopt a Preliminary Sewer Operating Fund Budget for the calendar year of 2007 of \$8,262,462. The proposed Preliminary Budget for the Sewer Operating Fund incorporates a rate change of 15.62%. 3% of this increase is attributable to plant operation increases and the balance (12.62%) for mandated plant improvements required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

HIGHWAY AID FUND:

Commissioner Carlin made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Agostine to adopt a Preliminary Highway Aid Fund Budget for calendar year 2007 in the amount of \$1,203,200. These monies are provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and require no additional funding from Township sources.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

REFUSE FUND:

Commissioner Carlin made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiJoseph to adopt Preliminary Refuse Fund Budget for calendar year 2007 of \$5,906,834. The proposed Preliminary Budget for the Refuse Fund incorporates a rate decrease (\$1.00) in Residential Refuse Fee from \$269 to \$268 for the calendar year 2007.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND:

Commissioner Carlin made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiJoseph to adopt a Preliminary Workers' Compensation Fund Budget for calendar year 2007 in the amount of \$432,000. Monies for funding of the Workers' Compensation Fund are contingent upon passage of the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Refuse Fund budgets. \$237,659 is allocated in General Fund program number 012, Sewer Fund budget program number 207 allocates \$50,000, and Refuse Fund budget program number 105 allocates \$112,341 in monies to be transferred to the Workers' Compensation Fund.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FUND:

Commissioner Carlin made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiJoseph to adopt a Preliminary Tuition Reimbursement Fund Budget for calendar year 2007 in the amount of \$14,000. Monies for funding are provided by the interest earnings on a \$250,000 restricted reserve.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Commissioner Ring announced a public meeting will be held on December 14, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. at the Abington Township Administrative Building for the purpose of discussion and adoption of Ordinance No. 1944 setting the Tax Levy and Appropriations for the calendar year 2007.

Commissioner Wachter asked was there a referendum on the increase of the fire tax millage?

Commissioner Ring replied yes.

Ms. Matiza said there was a referendum in 1996.

Commissioner Ring said the referendum allowed the Board to increase the millage to a certain cap and we have not reached that cap.

Commissioner Luker asked how much of the fund balance are we going to use?

Ms. Matiza replied \$3,225,000

Mr. Lahaza asked for Board comment on the workshop scheduled for November 30th.

The Board decided that no workshop would be needed on that date.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Burton T. Conway, Secretary

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