

**SPRINGETTSBURY TOWNSHIP
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2017
APPROVED**

The Springettsbury Township Board of Supervisors held a 2018 Budget Meeting on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Springettsbury Township located at 1501 Mt. Zion Road, York, PA.

MEMBERS IN

ATTENDANCE: Mark Swomley, Chairman
George Dvoryak, Vice Chairman
Bill Schenck

MEMBERS NOT

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathleen Phan, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Blanda Nace

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Benjamin Marchant, Township Manager
Teresa Hummel, Finance Director
Jessica Fieldhouse, Director of Community Development
Mark Hodgkinson, Director of Public Works/WWT
Dan Hoff, Chief, YAUFRR
Dan Stump, Chief, Police Department
Jean Abreght, Stenographer

1. CALL TO ORDER

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley called the meeting to order.

2. PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW

A. 2018 Preliminary Budget Review

MARCHANT Mr. Marchant opened the discussion beginning with a list of questions from Mr. Dvoryak. The questions covered a variety of issues including other taxes such as real estate transfers, Business Privilege and Mercantile taxes. Additional discussion took place covering the following:

- What is driving a drop in revenues? – An analysis will be done.
- Intergovernmental revenues – State highway maintenance no longer available to township
- School District/Cops in Schools
- Board Training Increase – PSATS course; new board member training
- Non-contract wage increases; Tax Collector commission versus payroll item
- Professional services budgeted for Mercantile audit

MR. SCHENCK MOVED TO ADD A LINE ITEM INTO 2018 BUDGET FOR A MERCANTILE TAX AUDIT, SPECIFICALLY NOT TO CHALLENGE THE

AMOUNTS PAID BUT TO ASSURE THAT EVERYONE IS PAYING THAT SHOULD BE PAYING. MR. DVORYAK WAS SECOND. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Discussion continued and covered some of the following: Projected grant revenues; Contracted salary increases – Police; Unfunded liability for Firefighters; Mandated costs for MS4; Contracted services for Community Development; Updated fee schedule; MUNIS training; Martin Library allocation; Property Insurance; Capital Reserve Transfer; Debt Service; conclusion of EMS, and potential Capital projects.

SCHENCK Mr. Schenck commented that he had been in favor of a yearly tax increase of 0.1 to 0.2 mils. He indicated 0.3 would be his suggestion.

DVORYAK Mr. Dvoryak commented that a 0.3 would cover the mandated MS4 costs. However, he recommended a closer look at all the costs involved to determine where cuts could take place.

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley indicated he was somewhere in between Mr. Dvoryak and Mr. Schenck at 1.6, 1.7 to keep the fund balance growing to plan for Capital projects in the future. He recommended, in addition, to continue thinking about redevelopment opportunities with tax incentive for businesses to come to the township; also to take underutilized properties to a new level; converting some to high-density housing, cost of services. He would favor a .04 increase.

MARCHANT Mr. Marchant noted that how the tax increase is marketed to the township and presented from a customer service standpoint has much to do with how the Supervisors discuss it within the community. He indicated that he would discuss the results of this meeting with the other two Supervisors for their thoughts. He planned to present the budget proposal on November 15th to the community.

B. Sewer Rates

MARCHANT Mr. Marchant reported that the sewer fund is a healthy, table fund, which is an enterprise fund. He had requested Terry Hummel to prepare some charts for the Supervisors with a recommendation and justification for a sewer rate increase. Expenses have begun to outpace revenues, part of which will be depreciation expense. They are proposing a \$70 a quarter for residential and \$75 a quarter for commercial flat rate. History shows that a rate increase had been initiated every five years, and 2018 will be the fifth year. A review of 10 surrounding municipalities was made.

SCHENCK Mr. Schenck commented on several major projects planned which include the Haines Acres area in Old East York, Fayfield, and a section of Market Street.

HODGKINSON Mr. Hodgkinson added proposed improvements to the treatment plant to increase acceptance project and improvements to the raw sewage handling. They are waiting for the DEP permit.

DVORYAK Mr. Dvoryak stated that Buchart-Horn had been commissioned several years ago to do a long-range sewer study. He asked whether the system is kept up to date with their recommendations.

HODGKINSON Mr. Hodgkinson responded that they are following the study with a few exceptions as it was just of the collection system and not the treatment plant.

SCHENCK Mr. Schenck stated that he was in favor of the sewer increase.

MARCHANT Mr. Marchant stated he would wait to hear from Mr. Swomley and hopefully they can put an agenda out by end of day Friday for next Wednesday's meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT

SWOMLEY Chairman Swomley adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen K. Bowers
Secretary

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