

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget Meeting

February 11, 2015

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

19

Roll Call

Present

Mr. Dunham
Mr. Sanchelli
Mr. Birmingham
Vice President Merz
Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Absent

President Yocum

Mrs. Harvin said, "Let the record show that Administrator James Leach is present. Also present is Director of Recreation, Grace Rhinesmith and Director of Buildings and Grounds, John Burns.

Salute to the Flag

Notice of Presiding Officer

Council Vice President Merz said, "This Council Budget meeting for February 11, 2015, commencing at 6:00 p.m. has been properly noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by notice to the official newspapers of the Township on February 5, 2015."

2015 Municipal Budget

Buildings & Grounds

Leach explained that about \$7,000 to \$10,000 will be canceled out from old recreation capital accounts. Sanchelli asked about the electronic signboard. Leach said that the plan is to install the first signboard on Berkshire Valley Road by the field across from Mario's Pizza. It will be monitored because there are some concerns about light pollution from the neighbors on Weldon Road by Camp Jefferson. Leach said that one a year will be phased in.

Mason Dump (from 2014 Budget)	\$53,000.00
Water's Edge – 2 Tennis Courts Repair	\$20,000.00
Water's Edge – #1 Basketball Ct Repair	\$10,000.00
Water's Edge – #2 Basketball Ct Repair	\$8,000.00
Prospect Point – Basketball Ct Repair	\$21,000.00
Christmas Lights for Municipal Grounds	\$11,000.00

Burns explained the repair of the tennis courts and basketball courts and the prioritization of the work. Dunham asked about the Christmas lights and Burns explained that is the quote for all the trees (8,000 feet of lighting). Dunham asked how long the lights will last and Burns said they will last 10 years. Leach said that anything that comes out of the Rec Trust is done as part of the budget appropriation and by ordinance. Eagen said that the Rec Trust can be used for a Capital or non-Capital item. Eagen said that every year once the Capital is approved, he looks at the Rec Trust to see how much the levy amount is each year. In past years, there has been \$75,000 to \$100,000 going toward the Lakeside Field to help pay it off. Eagen said now there are funds going toward the High School field. Eagen said based upon what is left and the new monies coming in and how much can be appropriated, he tries to do as much pay-as-you-go or fund as much as he can through the Rec Trust.

Turf Field Maintenance (HS Field)	\$13,000.00
Not Permissible Capital Expense	

Leach explained that there is a machine that has to be purchased to maintain the High School Field. Leach said that the money for this machine will be covered from funds being canceled from the turf field account.

Burns explained that the Buildings & Grounds Department is going to take over the Water's Edge landscaping. Burns said that \$15,000 was spent last year and he feels that the Department will be able to handle the work. Leach said that the money will be left in the Budget this year. The Council asked that half the money be left in the Budget.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget Meeting

February 11, 2015

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

20

O&E Waters Edge Landscaping

-\$7,500.00

Dunham asked about the High School Turf Field and the maintenance. Burns said that he will be doing the maintenance. Dunham asked who did the maintenance of the field before and Burns said it was done by the Board of Education. Leach said that the maintenance is twice a year. Leach said that the Board of Education is paying for the electricity when the Recreation programs are using the fields and lighting.

Recreation Capital

Dial A Ride Vehicle

\$32,500.00

Rhinesmith said this is another Transit Connect vehicle. Those vehicles are working very well.

Electronic Sign

\$20,000.00

Dunham asked Rhinesmith if the first electronic sign has been purchased yet. Rhinesmith said no, however, the first sign is going on Berkshire Valley Road and the second would go on Weldon Road. Rhinesmith said that Recreation would post notices, however, the residents would also be able to receive emergency notices on the electronic sign. Leach said that the sign would be wired so it can be hooked up to an emergency generator. The quote came in at \$14,764. Rhinesmith said that the advantage of these signs is that the message can be changed remotely from the computer. Dunham asked if there is a need to have multiple signs all over town. Dunham said that the plan was to try one and see how effective and useful the sign is. Merz asked why the first sign has not been purchased. Rhinesmith said that she was in the process of getting the third quote. Merz suggested purchasing the first sign. Leach said the Mayor's suggestion is to put the first sign on Berkshire Valley Road and the second one at Lakeside Field. Eagen said he is not sure how much can be stretched out of the Rec Trust. Rhinesmith said that information/messages from any department can be displayed on the sign. The Council agreed to leave the sign in the Capital Budget.

Rhinesmith and Burns left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Misc. Budget Items

Eagen said that there is \$7,000 left over from the 2013 and 2014 Dial a Ride; some of this money can go toward the radio and equipment.

Leach said that the surplus is about \$30,000 over last year. Pension payments are up about \$115,000. Leach said that last year, after the budget was introduced the payments dropped, and the money was moved into pay as you go capital. Now the money will be taken out and it will cover the pension increase for this year. Dunham asked how much was in there and Leach said \$120,000.

Leach said that last year a fully funded ordinance was done to put an emergency generator in the High School and Middle School. The School Board had grants for a large part of the project and the municipal commitment was for \$100,000 from OEM out of a \$400,000 project. Leach said that unfortunately the Board bid the project. Leach said that a meeting was held and the Board was advised to wait because there was a contract with the State wherein guidelines had to be followed to meet grant deadlines. Leach explained that the plan is to cancel the original ordinance and prepare a new ordinance for the same amount. The town will still receive the \$400,000 OEM grant and the money will be shifted to a new project: the new police desk; \$100,000 for the Board of Education; and \$25,000 for the Milton First Aid Squad to be used for a generator since the building is used for elections and emergencies. Leach said that he will have Ed Mangold and Deputy Chief Craig come to a meeting to explain the work that has been done on the grant.

Leach advised that another fully funded ordinance had been done for paving with the Board of Education. That is complete and there is \$134,000 left out of the original

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget Meeting

February 11, 2015

21

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

\$300,000 so that will be canceled. Leach said that another \$125,000 existing Board of Education ordinance will be canceled and \$125,000 will be added into this year's general capital.

Merz asked Eagen if he is continuing to do a sweep of smaller monies that are left over. Eagen said that this year he did the water and sewer capital.

Sanchelli said that the generator is a big item for the Milton First Aid Squad and it will help the town in emergencies. The Squad is trying to raise funds for the generator. Sanchelli asked if they have been told that they do not need to raise the funds. Dunham said that the Squad has to agree to a Lease. Merz asked if there has been a conversation with the Chief of the Squad yet. Merz said that there should be a discussion first. Leach said that he will be in contact with the Chief.

Eagen commented that the Annual Financial Statement was submitted yesterday on time. Eagen said that he wanted to mention that the Water Operating had about \$210,000 in surplus last year but this year it only has about \$140,000 available. Eagen said that something needs to be done and that 2012 was the last water rate increase. Eagen suggested that the Council have the UAB look at the water rate. The Sewer Operating Budget has about \$450,000.

Dunham asked when the last time a sweep was done of the O&E accounts. Eagen said that the accounts are checked periodically and each year he checks the accounts when the Council is trying to reach a budget number. Dunham asked for a total in the Recreation Trust and the Open Space Trust. Dunham commented that the money can now be used to pay off the notes. Leach advised that a small project is scheduled to be introduced on Castlerock Road along with an adjoining project which ties into the properties on Route 15.

Dunham asked for the amount that was appropriated in capital last year versus what is being done this year. Leach said that some cutting is going to have to be done. Dunham said that he would also like a number for O&E and S&W as well.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Adjournment at 7:12 p.m.

Motion: Sanchelli, second Dunham

Mr. Dunham	Aye
Mr. Sanchelli	Aye
Mr. Birmingham	Aye
Vice President Merz	Aye
President Yocum	Absent

Dated: February 11, 2015

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Debi Merz, Council Vice President