

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget Meeting

February 25, 2015

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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Roll Call

Present

Mr. Dunham

Mr. Birmingham

Vice President Merz

President Yocum

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Absent

Mr. Sanchelli

Arrived 6:06 p.m.

Mrs. Harvin said, "Let the record show that Administrator James Leach is present. Also present is Township CFO, William Eagen; Deputy Chief, William Craig; Deputy Coordinator of OEM, Ed Mangold; and Library Director, Seth Stephens.

Salute to the Flag

Notice of Presiding Officer

President Yocum said, "This Budget Council meeting for February 25, 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 19, 2015."

2015 Municipal Budget

OEM Report

Craig reported that the FEMA reimbursement is now complete. Eagen said there was a \$400,000 emergency for Superstorm Sandy and the monies have been reimbursed. This year the five year emergency is being paid off in the third year. Eagen said that a great job was done by the OEM staff to stay on top of the paperwork. Yocum said that communication is a big part of what OEM does on a daily basis. Yocum said that the Council is extremely appreciative of the updates that were received throughout that time.

Craig reported that there are a couple Grants that are being worked on currently. Craig said there is a FEMA Mitigation Grant which is for \$225,000. The Grant money would be \$202,500 with a 10 percent Township responsibility. Craig said that OEM is looking to update the dispatch area. The last time the dispatch area was updated was 1994. The other is an energy grant for \$100,000 and there would be no Township expense with that grant. If approved, a generator system would be put in at Camp Jefferson. Merz asked what the likelihood of success is and Mangold said about 95 percent. The Council and OEM representatives spoke about generator locations and building locations in the Township. Leach commented that OEM was going to explain about the shift in funding from the High School generator project to funding the Dispatch upgrade. Yocum asked if there is an understanding so that we will not run into that problem in the future. Mangold said yes and the generator project at the High School was properly bid.

Mangold commented that there will be a publicity push to advertise signups for the instant alert system. Yocum suggested placing something on the website. Leach commented that the Mayor will be holding a Senior Citizen information day in the Municipal Building and sign ups will be held at that time also.

Craig and Mangold left the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Report of Library Board of Trustees

Stephens and Michael Stewart, Library Board President came forward. Stewart said that they would like to speak about the projects that the Board has completed and the projects that are planned. Stewart said that the front of the Library building, has not been updated in over 40 years. The stairs are falling apart and pose a safety hazard in inclement weather. Stewart explained that the plans to extend the cover in the front of the building and to cover the stairs which will decrease the amount of salt that is needed in the winter months. Stephens displayed drawings of the proposed façade remodeling for the Council. Stephens said that he is working on estimates and he is also proposing

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having the work staged so that it will be affordable. Yocum agreed that with a large Capital project, it works best to do the work in stages. Stephens said that the façade will also be designed to be in keeping with the design of the Municipal Building.

Stephens spoke about the work that will have to be done on the air handler. Stephens said that he is waiting for a quote and on a quote for a service contract.

Mayor Felter arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Stewart commented that the Board has given up on the Automatic Fire Suppression system because the cost is so great. There is nothing in the Library that cannot be replaced with insurance. Stewart said that the Board will have a risk assessment done to determine the amount of insurance that is needed.

Stewart said that circulation is down and this may be because when funding goes down, they are unable to purchase new materials. Stephens is working on the e-books. Program participation is continuing and Storytime participation is always up. Stephens commented that patrons are also coming into the Library and using the facilities for other purposes and utilizing the website for Library services without visiting the physical building.

Seth said that the Board is happy to have the Council liaisons present at the monthly meetings. Merz commented that the Council appreciates receiving the monthly Library Director's reports.

Stephens and Stewart left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Budget Overview

Leach presented Budget update numbers to the Council and said that after working on the numbers the tax rate has come in at \$55.00 for the average residence. Leach said that borrowing is back in the \$1 million range. Eagen reviewed the Budget adjustments which included; \$200,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund and \$300,000 from various accounts' O&E which helped bring down the bottom line amount.

Eagen said that Ferraioli is scheduled to attend next Wednesday's meeting to do an overview of the finances. Leach said that there was an increase in ratables, however, a large part of this came about through added assessments on existing properties.

Eagen said that the Budget will be ready for Introduction at the March 4th meeting. Eagen asked the Council when they would like to discuss the Capital Budget.

Motion: Schedule Budget Meeting: 3/18/15 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Yocum, second Birmingham

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

Eagen said that the Water and Sewer Budgets are complete. Eagen said that there is a need for a Water Rate increase. Eagen said that he met with the Utility Advisory Board the other day and recommended an increase of 6 percent to make the budget work on the water side. There has not been a rate increase since 2012. Eagen said that next year there should be a Sewer increase.

Miscellaneous/Public Portion

No one came forward.

Adjournment at 7:20 p.m.

Motion: Birmingham, second Dunham

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

Dated: February 25, 2015

Attested:

Approved:

Lori Harvin, Township Clerk

Richard W. Yocum, Council President