

BUDGET WORKSHOP – Page 1

A special meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held October 18, 2022 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing the 2023 Budget and any other business that should come before the board, as was advertised. Those present: Dave Mattiuz, Matt Pontzer and Randy Gradizzi, supervisors, Kathy Dowie, secretary-treasurer, Rob Singer, and Scott Surra, fire chief.

Chairman Mattiuz called the meeting to order and began with discussion of the General Fund line items as they appeared on the worksheets.

The following items were acted upon or discussed:

In accordance with Federal regulations, the board added \$212,231 in ARPA funds to the General Fund to make up for lost revenue in 2020. Kathy Dowie explained that the 2021 Budget allotted \$216,241 in ARPA funds to be used for lost revenue however, the Township did not receive the second half of their allocation from the State until September 2022. This left a larger amount to be used in 2023 since other revenue had already replaced the intended ARPA allocation in the 2022 Budget.

In discussing the Road Maintenance items, Randy Gradizzi stated that he would like to budget for the following:

Salt, 500 tons - \$41,900

MC70 Dust Oil - \$45,000

Cold Patch - \$1,720

Pipe & Catch Basins - \$38,280

Crack sealing - \$6,500

Paving – Cherry and Upper Cherry Roads - \$120,000

These items were added to the proposed budget, being split within the State and General Funds.

In discussing the Toby Water fund, the income fell short by \$15,000 to cover the intended expenses. A timber sale was considered, but given that lumber prices are down, the Board felt that it would be best to wait to do another sale. To avoid raising customer rates, the Board decided to loan the Toby Water fund \$15,000 from the Landfill Fund to offset expenses. The loan will be repaid when another timber sale is done.

The Board discussed wages, considering the current Cost-of-Living rates as well as the increase in the hospitalization rates for next year. Given that the hospitalization will increase by 11% and that employees do not currently pay towards the premium, the Board felt that an \$0.80 per hour rate increase for the full-time employees was fair. The Park Directors and cleaning person will receive a \$0.60 per hour rate increase. The summer park staff will remain at \$12 per hour, as set by the Stackpole-Hall Foundation.

Once wages were calculated, the amount needed from the Landfill Host Fees to balance the General Fund was determined and remaining Landfill Host Fees were discussed. \$45,000 was allocated towards the fire and ambulance reserve accounts and the \$15,000 to Toby Water was allocated as discussed. Randy Gradizzi estimated that \$25,000 would be needed to repair the Hansen driveway on Laurel Lane where the plow truck had turned around and to relocate and pave the dedicated turn-around for Laurel Lane on the Haberberger property. This was included in the Landfill paving line item. Randy also suggested paving the Township Building parking lot. However, the Board felt that repairs to the garage portion of the building needed to be priority.

In discussing the equipment fund, Randy Gradizzi requested to purchase a new plow truck to replace the 2005 International. He stated that it has needed a lot of repairs recently. He had price quotes as follows:

2023 Peterbilt complete with plow and spreader - \$215,000

2023 Peterbilt without a bed (bed would be transferred from the 2005) - \$177,000

2023 F600 with plow and spreader - \$128,480

Dave Mattiuz felt that he would rather spend money on repairs for now, and plan on purchasing a truck next year, as funds allow. He felt that putting money into the building fund for the garage side repairs should be priority this

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year. As such, \$75,000 was allocated to the building fund to replace the roof, repair the wall by the man-door and possible address the corner that is sinking on the garage side of the Township building. Remaining funds in the Landfill account, after all other expenses, was then allocated to the equipment fund. The Board also allocated \$25,000 to the park reserve fund from the Act 13 money and the balance of the Act 13 money to the equipment reserve fund.

Scott Surra had reviewed the Fire Protection budget report and felt that no changes were needed in that fund, keeping the expenses the same as 2022 with a small adjustment to the insurance.

Kathy Dowie will re-check all the figures and prepare the proposed budget for the Board to review at the next meeting.

In other business, the Board agreed to submit a letter of support to the Elk County Riders ATV for a DCNR grant. Kathy Dowie will write the letter for the Board to sign.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Matt Pontzer to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 PM. Motion carried.