

BUDGET WORKSHOP

A special meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held October 22, 2025 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing the 2026 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, Ken Huey, Jerry Zimmerman, Fox Township Ambulance manager, Allison Quagliani and Scott Surra, fire chief.

Chairman Mattiuz called the meeting to order and began with acknowledging the visitors. Scott Surra had provided with figures for the 2026 Fire Protection Fund Budget prior to the meeting. Chief Surra stated that the purchase of a new truck was on hold, as turn-around times for new fire engines are now 2 to 3 years with a cost of at least one million dollars. The department is instead looking at refurbishing the 1998 engine and should have a plan and cost estimate for next year's budget. The fire Protection budget was kept the same as 2025.

Jerry Zimmerman, manager of Fox Township Ambulance, was present to ask the Board to again consider imposing an additional tax millage to be collected for the ambulance. Dave Mattiuz stated that he is opposed to taxing the residents for this when the Township can afford to continue their financial support to the ambulance.

Dave Mattiuz announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel items. As a result, the Board decided to give all employees (except the PHEAA students as per that program) a 2.5% wage increase for 2026. They also approved an increase in the reimbursement for the purchase of work boots to \$100 per employee per year. These figures were calculated into appropriate budget line items.

The Board continued their discussion of each fund by reviewing the suggested figures provided by Kathy Dowie for each line item. Randy Gradizzi had provided figures for the road department items and worked with Kathy prior to the meeting to have these items adequately allocated across the General Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund and Landfill Fund. The Rec. Board had also reviewed their portion of the budget and submitted their suggestions for 2026.

Included in Randy's road department budget was the following:

- Paving Scotland, Sandberg, and Swede Streets at a total estimate of \$101,745.50
- Paving Donovan Drive at an estimate of \$56,951.00
- Paving Ridge Road at an estimated \$260,331.00
- 1000 ton 1B Limestone
- 2500 ton 2A limestone
- 600 ton salt
- No Dust Oil

Included in the Rec. Board budget was the allocation of \$75,000 for the splash pad project and an increase in the park maintenance budget to include \$13,000 for the sealing of the rubber matting under the playground.

A motion was made by Matt Pontzer, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to request a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant in an amount to be finalized by E&M Engineers from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the construction of a new post office facility and to designate Kathy Dowie and Dave Mattiuz to execute the necessary documentation. Motion carried.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Matt Pontzer, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to adjourn this at 5:30 PM. Motion carried.