

CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRAURY 1, 2017
3:30 PM

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 3:30 p.m. Committeemen Brown, Pelura, and Racite were present. Mr. Dennis and Mr. Dowe were running late but were expected. Also present at this meeting were M. Stout- CMFO / Administrator, J. Proffitt-Township Clerk and L. Jones-Treasurer. Fred Caltablano Auditor with Bowman was also in attendance.

Mayor Racite called the meeting to order, he read the **Opening Public Meeting Act**. Mayor Racite led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and roll call was taken.

Mrs. Stout handed out a sheet for the Committee members to follow of an overview of the budget for 2017. She said this year there was a decrease in the tax levy of approximately \$124,917.00. So with that said 1 cent will equate to \$69,862.00 which is a decrease of \$3,308.00 from 2016. Mrs. Stout reviewed the Fund Balance and said there is \$1,318,753.66. Mrs. Stout reviewed the results of operations with the Committee. She said UCC Fees were up \$41,629.09 but Tax collection was down \$59,081.22. Municipal Court Fines and costs were also down.

Mr. Caltablano said that fee is down all over not just here. Mrs. Stout reviewed with the Committee what she is proposing for the 2017 budget. She kept State Aid figures the same. She finished with the overall budget that is \$1,121,210.00 more than the 2016 budget. This is because of tax appeal payments that came due, legal fees and other items that are affecting the budget. Mrs. Stout then went over where she feels cuts can be made. She mentioned moving police vehicles to capital only if they are SUV's. She said she could cut the health insurance O/E by \$50,000 and some of the money put aside for retirement of employees. Mrs. Stout said she could look into State Transitional Aid. The only issue would be the Township would be under State Supervision. Mrs. Stout moved on to address the capital requests. She said they were looking at funding approximately two million. Currently there is \$911,503.00 in for Capital requests.

Fred Caltablano discussed with the Committee different ways we can proceed to a final budget. He said we have 193 million more than last year. If we go more aggressive on revenues we will not put as much back on surplus. We are in extraordinary times. Go conservative and put it up to what we collected last year (CoGen payment) and we could see a 200 thousand short fall in 2018 to start. The major hurdles to get over in this budget are the \$225,000 Emergency Appropriation and the legal costs. They have to be paid off this year. They do not get to be financed over five years. He said Mrs. Stout put \$800,000 in legal to help so the Township does not have to go out for emergency appropriations again. Utilize a little more fund balance; you could scale back the legal costs. The problem is there may be a need to do another emergency appropriation. Mayor Racite asked if we received projections on costs from our legal people. Mrs. Stout said not yet all of them. Mayor Racite asked if any of the cases get settled where we would place the money. Mr. Caltablano said it would depend on if it is before or after the adoption of the budget. We would just have to let the State know, they will understand. The Committee members spoke on the lawsuit and Pennsville getting involved.

Mr. Caltablano said the Township will have the last payment of a bond in 2017. He would recommend the Township go out for bonding this year again. He said we will have to figure out

if we want to go out for 5, 10 15 year bonding. He will do some research on how much our principle amount will be. He said he is looking for future savings for next year. Mr. Caltablano said the market is unsettled but the rates are locked in. Mrs. Stout said the Capital need to be settled today so the ordinance can be introduced by our next meeting. Mr. Caltablano mentioned there can be amendments to the ordinance. Mrs. Stout asked about the maximum tax amount that could be raised. Mr. Catlablano said the amount can change based on what we decide to do in the budget but it will be around 1.6 cents now.

Mrs. Stout went over the capital requests that were received at this time. She mentioned items from the Police Dept. along with the Fire Rescue Department. Mrs. Stout said the rescue is looking at a used ambulance. She mentioned to the Committee since this is long term financing would they want to consider a new one instead. Mrs. Stout said they requested a used ambulance at \$50,000 but a new ambulance would be around \$150,000 to 170,000. Currently one of our ambulances is in the shop waiting for about \$10,000 in repairs. With the changes the total is currently at 1,431,503.00.

The Committee moved on to discuss the budgets of Mr. Gilbert. The first was Streets and Roads to be discussed. Cuts were made to some of the line items. The Committee moved on to discuss Recycling and Solid Waste. Again cuts were made and the Committee moved on. Buildings and Grounds followed. The janitor's salary was discussed due to part coming out of a grant. The YMCA was also discussed. A few other minor cuts were made to this department. Mayor Racite asked if Mr. Gilbert was ready to speak on Parks and Playgrounds. Mr. Pelura discussed this department. He went line by line and asked for the amounts to be kept the same due to work not being done in the year that past. Mr. Pelura then reviewed the Recreation Department. He said this money is for events that did not get done last year. Mr. Pelura said advertising was increased so people will be noticed of the events.

Mayor Racite moved on to the Clerk's Office budget. He said the budget looked good but the computer will be moved to Capital. Codification of ordinances was discussed and the Committee decided to leave the amount the same. Next up was Engineering Services. The processional services was discussed and then cut by half. Mrs. Stout said if the Township does any road projects than the engineering can be charged to the capital project. Storm water management was reviewed. The amount in general services was moved to the storm water management. The Committee moved on to the Finance budget. There were a few questions which were answered and a few deductions were made.

Mrs. Stout said audit services were kept the same. Grant Consultant was reduced. Mrs. Stout commented that there are not a lot of grants out there to apply for. The Committee discussed the Industrial Commission budget. Mr. Dowe said they have a new Chairperson and he is doing a great job. Mrs. Stout said he is coming in to see her and getting paperwork on finance operations. After reviewing Mayor Racite reminded everyone of the meeting on Saturday morning at 9 am. Mr. Caltablano thanked the Committee and left the meeting.

Mayor Racite moved on to **Public Participation:** With no public questions or comments this portion was closed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Brown to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dennis. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

2-15-2017
Approved:

June Proffitt
June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk