

**Upper Pottsgrove Township - Budget
Committee Minutes**

November 24, 2008

On Monday, November 24, 2008, the Budget Committee met at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners DeLena, Dolan, Noll, Spaide and Taylor in attendance. Also present were Township Manager Jack P. Layne, Township Secretary Cynthia Saylor and Financial Consultant Matthew Dallas. Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. There were 12 people and a Mercury reporter present in the audience.

FIRE FUND - Commissioner Noll reported that the Fire Committee met on Thursday and voted unanimously to authorize the Township Manager to submit the necessary paper work for the purchase of the new truck. A motion by Noll, seconded by Spaide, to authorize the Township Manager to submit the application for the lease purchase of a new fire truck. All aye votes. After a brief discussion, a motion by Noll, seconded by Spaide, to authorize advertisement for a public hearing to proceed with the purchase of the fire truck as required by the Leasing Company. All aye votes. It was agreed to hold the public hearing on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:30 P.M.

SEWER FUND - Commissioner Taylor reported the proposed 2009 reflects an increase of \$80.00 for the annual sewer fees. It also includes a transfer from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$114,000. Commissioner Noll requested documentation that would justify the \$114,000 transfer from the Sewer Fund. Mr. Layne explained that the state's mandate requiring the Township to take over, operate and maintain the Regal Oaks Sewer Treatment Plant is helping to increase the cost of operating the system. Mr. Dallas noted the preliminary budget reflects a deficit of \$39,287 in 2009 if the sewer rates are not increased to make up the difference.

When **FORINE MUNGIN, 1484 Lotus Drive**, questioned the number of sewer customers within the Township Mr. Layne stated there are 1,171 customers and approximately 1,000 residents that are not hooked up to public sewer.

MARIA AUERBACH - 65 Irwin Place - Stated that a year ago the sewer rates were \$300 a year and now it's going to be \$800. Mrs. Auerbach stated it's costing too much money to live in the Township.

GENERAL FUND - The proposed preliminary budget reflects six-tenths of a mill increase and an increase in the millage rate from 2.8 to 3.4. Commissioner Taylor noted the 2008 budget provides for no cash carryover whatsoever. Commissioner Noll reviewed the proposed revenues and expenditures for the proposed 2009 budget.

REGGIE LEISTER - 1693 Farmington Avenue - Stated that he was speaking as a resident and not as a member of the Civil Service Commission and noted the proposed budget is allotting \$63,750 for each police officer. Mr. Leister questioned whether the 4% increase in salaries was part of the police bargaining contract.

ROBERT SLOSS - 2097 Needhammer Road - Stated in his opinion the \$25,000 contribution to the Pottstown Library should be eliminated and noted there are libraries in all of the schools for the students to use. Mr. Sloss stated the contributions and the transfer from the Sewer Fund should also be eliminated from the proposed budget. Commissioner Taylor noted that the Sewer Fund has not transferred any money to the General Fund in the last two years. Mr. Sloss stated that 70% of the budget goes towards wages and suggested either cutting back on personnel or possibly “subbing work out.”

FIORINE MUNGIN - 1484 Lotus Drive - Questioned how the members of the Board can justify the \$25,000 contribution to the Pottstown Library and stated their priorities are not right.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the annual contribution to the library. Commissioner Spaide noted it is a gift that we just cannot afford. Commissioner Noll suggested reducing the amount of the annual contribution but was not in favor of eliminating it altogether.

Commissioners Dolan, DeLena and Taylor opposed the elimination of the annual contribution. Commissioner DeLena stated a representative from the Library has come before the Board every year and request an increase; however every year the Township has said “no.” Financial Consultant, Matt Dallas, calculated the \$25,000 contribution to the Library would cost each resident \$10.70.

LINDA DUNCAN - 72 Hanover Drive - Addressed the Board with regards to the library contribution and stated maybe to you that’s nothing but to me it’s a lot. When Mrs. Duncan asked what the Library does to raise money; Commissioner DeLena stated the Library raises funds thru grants and donations.

MARIE AUERBACH - 65 Irwin Place - Expressed her concern that the Township is allocating more money to the Pottstown Library than to the Fire Company.

DEIDRE SLIFER - 1443 Farmington Avenue - Referenced the annual library contribution and stated the Township needs to start making “cuts” somewhere.

A motion by Dolan, seconded by DeLena, to approve and authorize advertisement of the preliminary budget. Aye votes: DeLena, Dolan, Noll and Taylor. Opposed Spaide. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, a motion by DeLena, seconded by Dolan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 A.M. All aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia H. Saylor
Township Secretary