

Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors October 25, 2016 Budget Workshop Minutes

The October 25, 2016 Budget Workshop of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Dan Rattigan at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Dan Rattigan, Vice Chair Tom Cino, Treasurer Mary Ryan, Member Diana Nolan and Member Mike Tierney. Also in attendance were Interim Township Manager David R. Nyman, Finance Director Sandy Wenitsky, Assistant Township Manager Judy Caporiccio and Sergeant Dan Jones.

Mr. Rattigan led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

GENERAL FUND REVISIONS REVIEW

Mr. Nyman provided an overview of updates and revisions from previous budget workshops for the General Fund as well as the Capital Reserve, Open Space, Park and Recreation, Building Construction, Liquid Fuels, Tree, Fire, Riparian Restoration and Preservation Grant and Emergency Services, Water & Sewer, Pension and Escrow Funds. Mr. Nyman noted that the draft as presented indicates a 2 mil reduction in the Open Space Fund, a 0.25 reduction in the Building Construction Fund and a 1 mil increase in the real estate tax, resulting in a 1.25 mil overall tax reduction. He also noted that an employee healthcare opt-out policy is being researched and will be available for Board consideration by the end of the year.

During discussion, the Board expressed concern about the effect of potential changes to New Jersey's reciprocity agreement. Mr. Nyman noted that New Jersey's final decisions may not be known until the end of the year and implementation would not occur until 2018. However, the 1 mil real estate tax allocated to the General Fund would provide a cushion if changes are instituted. Mr. Tierney noted that additional accommodations will be necessary if the reciprocity agreement is changed.

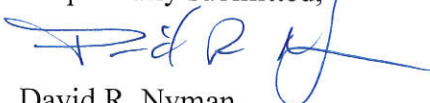
There was general consensus by the Board to prepare the 2017 Preliminary Budget based on the documents presented. Mr. Cino noted that this is a working draft which can be refined during the adoption process.

Mr. Tierney expressed his opinion that the elected auditors should be able to access the Township's financial information without submitting a Right to Know request. He referenced information from a PA Township News article which he believes supports his opinion. Ms. Nolan was in agreement that the elected auditors are entitled to the information but should submit a Right to Know Request based on information she received through PSATS. She said she would further research the topic. Discussion ensued and Mr. Ameye was asked to explain the process for his recent Right to Know request for information. Mr. Nyman was then asked to explain his response to Mr. Ameye's request.

Mr. Tierney made a motion to allow elected auditors to look at the Township's financial information without submitting a Right to Know request. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

A motion was made by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Ms. Ryan to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Nyman
Interim Township Manager

Approved: