

West Sadsbury Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

January 4, 2023

Chairman, Darren DeVoe called the special meeting to order for the adoption of the 2023 budget at 7:30 P.M.

In attendance were Darren DeVoe; Ed Hass, Vice Chairman; John Keeseey, Member; Helen Esbenshade, Solicitor and Patti Piersol, Sec/Treas.

Comments of the agenda item:

Mrs. Hosier asked about the \$175,000.00 from general funds reserve, that is an increase of \$25,000.00 and what is in the general funds reserve currently? Auditing services were \$12,000.00 in 2021 and in 2022 nothing. Why the attorney fees increased by \$25,000.00. What about the roads and maintenance tools and why reduce the fuel costs when the prices are going up.

Darren said that they did not have the year end figures yet. The Auditors did not submit a bill for the audit. The attorney fee increase is due to the amount of work that they expect to be in the Township for 2023.

She asked does Jason have \$1,000.00 to buy tools. Darren said there weren't many tools to work with in the garage and he needed to purchase tools to do the work/maintenance work that he is doing that used to be sent out to do or not do at all. They even do some of the work on the Police vehicles. The road maintenance wages include both men. The diesel price fluctuates and they didn't even use \$1,500.00 in 2022.

She asked about the park and Rec wage went from \$4,000.00 to \$1,000.00. Darren said that they did not spend that much last year. They went line for line to check the actual amount used in 2022. Some departments were over budgeted, some were under budget and they are trying to get it closer this year.

She asked who the \$45,000.00 in social security and Medicare is for. Answer: it is required for all of the employees of the Township. She asked about Worker's Compensation insurance, answer: it is required by law for all the employees of the Township.

She asked about the \$50,000.00 listed as insurance package. Darren explained that it is for insurance that covers the buildings, vehicles (Police and Roads) and properties.

She asked about who gets insurance. Answer is the full-time employees, (currently 4 Police Officers and Jason).

She asked about the \$1,659.50 being the ending income for the year.

She asked how they would cover snow storms and where would that money come from? Darren said that there is another fund that can cover that, Liquid Fuels, this budget is for the General Funds account.

Then she asked about the Police figures: the insurance in 2022 was \$45,000.00 to \$160,000.00. Darren said that prices have increased and the number of persons insured has increased. The insurance is Blue Cross and there is an HMO choice. They left the amount to include insurance for the Police Chief. She asked if all Officers receive insurance, answer: no only full-time Officers and their families.

Corporal Amber Smith said that the Police took the figures that they were given for the insurance. They had added everything and got \$49,519.32 and they know a new Police Chief will add to that, but not \$60,000.00. And they also believe that Jason's is lumped with theirs.

Darren agreed that their math was bad and that this makes dramatic changes to the budget in insurances and Police salaries.

Mrs. Hosier asked about the amount for pensions, why did it jump from \$18,000.00 to \$60,000.00.

They asked about the cleaning; it is \$200.00 a month for the Township (cleans every other week) and the Police Department is \$400.00 a month because it is cleaned every week.

Mrs. Hosier asked if the Township got any COVID money, yes that is the ARP money. Patti said some of the money was used to purchase the road repair machine that the Roads Department purchased. She asked is this money can be used to help with the vehicles and get update to date machines.

Amber stated that the Police have two vehicles that are out of service and the two newer vehicles are being used more now. The Police has a server that needs to be replaced, they are unable to do certain aspects of their jobs. They need warranties on the body cameras. If the Department was asked what was needed before doing the budget, these problems could have been handled.

Joe Precup asked about: in 2019 when he left there was \$120,000.00 to repair the roads and \$40,000.00 for a garage for the Police. Where did that go? Darren said that he didn't know any of that. Joe asked about the money from the electronic sign out on Route 30. The sign does not generate any funds for the Township. The Township got the money for the permit for the sign to be erected, but nothing after that.

Ed Haas stated that they have \$102,000.00 set aside for Chester County to redo the Township's Comprehensive Plan. It is in a restricted account.

Joe asked what was in the Liquid Fuels account. Patti said that there is \$386,179.35 in the checking account. He complained about his road having pot holes and he wanted to know what

and why the roads were not being fixed. Darren said that the Township just finally got all the permits needed to have the Limeville Road fixed, now looking for contractors to do the job.

Joe submitted a Right to Know form requesting what the Liquid Fuels monies were spent on in 2022. Patti asked if he wanted the information electronically or do you want paper copies?

Ron Stoltzfus asked about the \$38,693.00 for Fire and EMS and asked if the Township had checked into any other than Keystone Valley. Patti said that the Fireman's Relief monies come from the State and it has to be sent to the Relief Association of the Fire Department that the Township uses within a certain number of days.

A question was asked about the real estate taxes on the cell tower, County and School District taxes are paid on the cell tower.

The Board went into Executive Session with Helen Esbenshade, Solicitor.

Samuel Glick asked for a copy of the recordings. Patti said that they are for her use in doing the minutes, but she will ask for a legal opinion.

The Board returned and stated that they were going to continue this meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 P. M. and they will have the changes made.

January 9 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Darren called the continuation of the meeting to order. Mr. Keeseey has COVID and will not be personally attending the meeting, but will be on the phone. The Board moved Jason's health and dental insurance to Roads. Jason will pay 10% and the Township will pay 90% just like the Police. For the insured with families, they will pay 25% of the cost. The dental is Concordia, for an individual it is \$31.10 and for families it is \$78.90. They adjusted the pay for the Sergeant to \$75,691.20, the Corporal t \$73,112.00 and the full-time Patrolman (2) to \$141,065.60 which is in the Police contract.

Someone asked about the General Fund having to pay back Liquid Fuels for the diesel, there is no pay back, the diesel fuel is paid for by Liquid Fuels.

There was discussion of reducing the amount listed for uniforms for the Police. They will change it to \$12,000.00. They know that there will be some large vehicle costs, repairs or a new vehicle.

Someone asked about the pensions and Mr. Wright asked about the State monies that the Township get and that if receive \$50,000.00 then the amount should not be listed as \$60,000.00 on the budget.

Darren made a motion to approve the budget with all the changes made on the 4th and tonight, seconded by John, motion carried.

Mrs. Hosier asked when the revised budget be available, they said that it will be posted on the website.

Darren made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:


Patti Piersol, Sec/Treas.

**WEST SADBURY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING AGENDA
January 4, 2023 at 7:30 PM**

Proper protocol is requested

Masks and Social Distancing according to CDC requirements

- Comments on agenda items:

Old Business

Adoption of Final Budget

New Business

None

Public Comments on non-agenda items

Adjourn:

Time