

WEST MANHEIM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WORK SESSION

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

The Public Work Session was called to Order by Chairman Hartlaub at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge to the Flag and Invocation.

Supervisor Hartlaub mentioned that an executive session was held prior to the start of the Regular Meeting.

ROLL CALL: Present were Supervisors Hartlaub, Woerner, and Gobrecht. Supervisor Staaf and Supervisor Parr were absent. Also present were Solicitor Linus Fenicle, Mike Knouse from C. S. Davidson, Inc. and Manager Kevin Null.

VISITORS: Visitors register attached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Agenda was approved with the following changes; the addition of the Item 9 (A) Web Posting Policy, and the discussion of the 2014 Budget Review being moved to Item 9 (B), in a motion by Supervisor Woerner, and seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2013 were approved as submitted, in a motion by Supervisor Woerner, seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht and carried.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS: The Disbursements from all Funds were approved, as listed, in a motion by Supervisor Gobrecht, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences received.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Web Posting Policy

In a motion by Supervisor Woerner, seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht and carried the Board of Supervisors voted to have all social media sites (Facebook) as "read only"/"admin post only" with no comments or postings allowed until standard policies for the use of social media in the Township is developed.

B. 2014 Draft Budget Review

Kevin Null, Township Manager reviewed the line items of the handout provided to the Board showing where possible suggested budget adjustments could be considered to reduce the budget by potentially \$80,000.

Supervisor Woerner made some suggested adjustments to achieve the 5 percent that were provided on the handouts.

Supervisor Gobrecht said he is trying to figure out what they are trying to do with the suggested adjustments. He said the budget spells out what they need to operate.

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Supervisor Woerner said what he is trying to accomplish is a reduction in the millage rate.

Supervisor Gobrecht said it might be easier to reduce the rate next year if the Township building on Fairview Drive can be sold and the Public Works employees can be relocated to the Township building.

Supervisor Woerner said they are 80 percent on the way now without any painful adjustments.

Supervisor Gobrecht asked where the money was coming from to move Public Works.

Supervisor Woerner said there are capital expenditures.

Supervisor Hartlaub said he is all for cutting but they do not want to use the Township's reserve so they could lower the millage rate.

Supervisor Woerner said that is not his suggestion. The Public Works building is projected on the Capital projects budget for 2015 in the amount of \$350,000. He said it is incumbent of the Board to go up or down on the millage to make the budget. If they can get by with giving the residents a 5 percent cut for a year that is better than no cut.

Supervisor Hartlaub said if they would have to then increase the millage rate by 5 percent the following year then they would have more of a problem.

Supervisor Gobrecht said he would hate to have to ask for a 5 percent millage increase next year.

Supervisor Woerner said if they can make the adjustment for a year or even two years then why shouldn't they make the millage adjustment. We have been coming in under budget since 2010, we raised taxes to pay for the infrastructure loan and if we can reduce the millage rate and still make our payments on the loan then we should make the reduction. Supervisor Woerner also stated that government rarely if ever gives back to the residents; it only grows and gets bigger.

Supervisor Hartlaub said he would prefer they pay off the debts instead of lower the millage rate. He would prefer they pay down the mortgage.

Supervisor Woerner said that at the beginning of the year he asked about placing any monies from last year's budget towards some debt and it never happened.

Supervisor Hartlaub said by having a reserve.

Supervisor Woerner said he still believes if they can give money back to the residents and let them have more of their money that is the way to go.

Supervisor Gobrecht said he understands but the residents are all obligated to the loan.

Supervisor Woerner said he would like to see the millage rate reduced. He said the residents' property taxes could be reduced and the Township would still be able to come in under budget with the reserve that is used to pay off the debts. He would like to see the property taxes reduced by 5 percent to .0285 mills.

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Supervisor Hartlaub said he would like to pay down the loans.

Supervisor Woerner said he wanted to see a reduction of \$85,000 but would consider a line item for a loan reduction payment. He also stated that we all know you cannot hold future boards to a budgetary decision that we currently make so having a debt line item may not work for the future. The only way to make sure that we use resident's money wisely is to do more with less and give a tax cut. The other board members authorized the manager to look for additional budget cuts.

Stan Werkheiser, 60 Sara Lane voiced his concerns about the comments made during the caucus meeting regarding the posting of public comments on the Townships' Facebook sites. He feels this violates the Constitution of the United States and the freedom of speech. He said people have a right to express their opinion.

Supervisor Woerner said he does not disagree with everything resident Stan Werkheiser stated. He said this is the reason the Board made the Township Facebook sites "informational only" until the Board can get something in place that can clearly define the policies. He said by making the sites "informational only" they are not infringing on anyone's rights. They are just temporarily eliminating the comment portion of the site. He said he would welcome anyone that wants to address the Park Board or the Board of Supervisors to come to a meeting and make comments in person. The Board would encourage more residents to attend the meetings.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS: Supervisors Regular Meeting - Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisors Caucus at 6:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting - Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisors Caucus at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Hartlaub asked if there were any visitors present that wished to address the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: The Work Session Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. in a motion by Supervisor Gobrecht, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Gately
Secretary