

WEST MANHEIM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WORK SESSION

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

The Public Work Session was called to Order by Chairman Hartlaub at 7:00 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 to discuss personnel issues.

ROLL CALL: Present were Supervisors Hartlaub, Woerner, Staaf and Gobrecht. Supervisor Parr was 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, in a motion by Supervisor Woerner and seconded by Supervisor Staaf. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2013, were amended and approved, as submitted, in a motion by Supervisor Gobrecht, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: There were no correspondences received.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Authorization to advertise the 2014 Draft Budget

Kevin Null, Township Manager said if the Board does not have any changes to the draft budget he would request authorization to advertise the budget in the newspaper. He said a copy would also be available for review on the township's website, as well as the Township receptionist area. He said the budget will be adopted at the work session meeting on December 17th.

In a motion by Supervisor Gobrecht, seconded by Supervisor Staaf and carried with a vote of 3-1, Supervisor Woerner being opposed, the Board approved the authorization to advertise the 2014 proposed budget without a tax decrease and to keep the current millage rate.

Supervisor Woerner said he would like to see the budget advertised with the millage rate reduction of 5 percent to .0285 mills.

Supervisor Hartlaub asked the Supervisors if there were any others in favor of reducing the millage for the taxes.

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Supervisor Woerner read into the record the reason why they should vote to lower the taxes. Written copies were distributed to Supervisors and Staff (a copy is attached and included in the Township files).

Supervisor Gobrecht said he does not agree because it is a trivial amount. He said every dollar does count. He said they finally have a budget that is in decent shape. There are items that have to be dealt with which includes a new public works building. He said in another year or two they might be able to give back. He is not comfortable with reducing the millage at this time.

Supervisor Staaf said he would like to see the money used to pay down the debts. He said we are still paying on the Township building. He agrees with the reduction but at this time it is too soon.

Supervisor Woerner said the principle is if there is too much they need to return it to the residents. That is the principal he would like to see them operate under. He said it is up to the Board to make the adjustment from year to year as necessary.

Supervisor Hartlaub said he is opposed to the reduction.

Linus Fenicle, Solicitor said a motion has been made to advertise the budget with the current millage rate.

Supervisor Woerner made a motion to reconsider and advertise the budget with the reduction of the millage rate by 5 percent to .0285.

The motion died for lack of a second.

B. Conversion of the Public Works Radio System

Kevin Null, Township Manager said that the Township's Public Works two-way radio system currently being used is an analog system. He said that Federal regulations require that most analog system be converted to the new digital frequencies. Currently, the Township is one of two companies remaining on the analog radio system. He reported that the Township will be forced into upgrading from analog to digital communications. The Township currently has a need to replace two portable radios, at a cost of \$654 each. He would not recommend they invest \$1,308 in equipment that may become obsolete in the near future.

He would like to request authorization to convert the Public Works two-way radio system from analog to digital at a cost of \$11,409. He said this cost is less than last years quoted price of \$14,729, which he received in September 2012. The proposal is to replace 10 mobile radios, 9 portable radios, a base station, batteries and chargers. The radio communications system is used by several other departments and radios will be replaced in the Police Department, Utilities Department EMA and the Fire Department. The replacement costs are included in the proposal. While this upgrade was not included as a line item in the budget, there are funds available for the upgrade; either through the General Fund or Highway Aid.

In a motion by Supervisor Staaf, seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht, and carried, the Board of Supervisor authorized the request to convert the Public Works two-way radio system from analog to digital at a cost of \$11,409.

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NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS: Supervisors Regular Meeting - Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisors Caucus at 6:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting - Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisors Caucus at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Hartlaub said that he would like to thank Supervisor Woerner for making a motion to reduce the millage rate. He said that he would also like to reduce taxes, but the Township may need the extra capital reserves in the coming year to be able to build a new building for Public Works. The Township has plans to sell the current public works building located on Fairview Drive.

He asked if there were any additional comments from the Board or if there were any visitors present that wished to address the Board.

Frank Kadyszewski, Valley View Drive asked again for clarification about the Township solicitation requirements regarding political canvassing.

ADJOURNMENT: The Work Session Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. in a motion by Supervisor Staaf, seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Gately
Secretary