

Upper Milford Township
Board of Supervisors
Township Building, Old Zionsville, PA 18068
October 17th, 2024, 6pm
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; Daniel Mohr, John Zgura, Angela Ashbrook; Manager Edward Carter, Secretary/Treasurer Jessi O'Donald

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jim Maley – HOA Mink Estates – Jim expressed that the comments made by Lauren Haponski about the parking in Jasper Ridge are agreed with, within Mink Estates. The continuation of no parking along the streets will allow for easier EMS access and limit the clutter that parking on both sides would show. He was there to express concerns over loud cars, a car that has been parked long term without valid stickers, marijuana odor and used condoms being left on the ground within the Mink Estates development from residents of the new development. He has tried to contact the Jasper Ridge HOA and no one responds to him. All these things he says present a problem for the older residents in Mink Estates.

Ken Debus – 4511 Stole Rd – asked about a Noise Ordinance. The School Bus Company moved the bus stop to within Mink Estates and the kids are loud. Mink Estates has 41 homes, and the average age is over 80 years old. These noise concerns are making the once quiet neighborhood noisy.

Supervisor Mohr replied that the Buses cannot go into the new development until the roads are dedicated to the Township as prior to that they are privately own streets.

Manager Carter stated that the Jasper Ridge HOA needed to return with a 2/3 vote of the HOA members to have parking approved within the Jasper Ridge Development. The HOA had submitted a parking plan update but has not returned with the signatures to again request the updated parking plan approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) 2025 Draft Budget Discussion

Supervisor Ashbrook Started the questions.

The proposal of the Dump Truck. She asked why it was needed and if it would free up an employee or still need two operators. Public works will be replacing a late 90's model truck. The proposed

truck is a Mack Granite with the same size plow. It can haul almost twice as much in weight which cuts down trips for hauling and frees up a second person if they are only in need of one truck to haul. The money is coming from the equipment savings which has \$527,354.07 as of 9/30/2024 and the proposed truck is \$325,000.00. Supervisor Zgura asked about the concerns with the 10-wheeler from before. Manager Carter responded that the prior truck was bought before he started and was a manual drive. The truck proposed is an automatic. The difference in price is \$23,000.00 between the single axel and the twin axel. The heavier truck can separate plow routes better as the truck can handle more weight so it will allow them to plow longer without having to return to the garage to add weight. Phil Casey asked about tracking tires on the specs. Manager Carter stated that they are going over that with Public Works and tightening up those specs. Trucks are placed as needed. At this point the current truck will not last another two years. If this truck is ordered it may be delivered by 2025.

Supervisor Ashbrook asked why the estimated interest wasn't noted as higher given the interest that we have earned this year. Secretary/Treasurer O'Donald responded that she was always taught not to count on something that isn't guaranteed. She watched the interest rates drop in three weeks when the pandemic started in 2020, so since we are headed into an election and the market volatility that it creates, she adjusted the line to what a historic average was. Next line was asked about was 354.103 is the DCNR grant for Lenape Park. 345.101 is the recycling grant and is not consistent but based on reports from refuse haulers. 390.102 is the match fund for the park grant and that is coming out of the fee in lieu of recreation money saved for this project. 399.000 is balance forward. She asked the difference between 2023 and 2024. \$400,000 is the fund balance the Township needs to start the year. In 2023 there was additional money, and we used that money to balance the budget. 408.313 engineering fees. This fluctuation is due to projects that are anticipated during the year. 414.301 That expense is the zoning and SALDO expense. 487.151 is health insurance renewal has increased a lot as other things have. 405.261 is our IT, back up and software licensing.

Supervisor Zgura asked about 409.373. This is for the estimated cost of a back up generator for the shop to keep public works up and running during power outages. John asked if this would run everything. Manager Carter stated it will not run everything as the shop is single phase electric and the well pump is three-phase well pump. It will also not run the welder. Supervisor's concerns are that if we are going to add this generator, he would want to see it run everything and allow for welding if it is needed during a storm. Supervisor Mohr asked about heating. He asked Manager Carter to speak to public works to make sure they are set with this project.

Phil Casey asked the cost of generator and suggested to buy a gas-powered welder.

Supervisor Zgura asked about Clothing allowance. This funds Unifirst uniform shirts with reflective stripes and safety colors that are laundered each week along with pants, sweatshirts and t-shirts.

The 2025 budget has the tax increase in it already. In the general fund is a millage of 0.211 and the Fire Service is 0.539 mills for a total real estate millage of .75 which is increased from the current 2024 millage of 0.45. The increase in the budget on an average assessment of \$232,148.26 will be \$69.64 per year. That breaks down to \$16.71 additional toward the general fund and \$52.93 additional dollars toward fire service

Supervisor Zgura asked if the \$140,000 for the Fire Service Savings be enough for the next few years. Supervisor Zgura is personally against raising taxes but doesn't see another way to help fund the Fire Companies. The increase will cost the average parcel \$5.80 per month.

Phil Casey – the last major increase was put to a referendum. He asked why this increase was not put to a referendum to allow the public to vote on it. Manager Carter stated that Open Space tax regulations state the only way an Open Space tax can be instituted is by Referendum as it is an Earned Income Tax. Fire revenue can be generated up to a total of 3.0 mill without referendum. The Board did ask about referendum rules early on and did not direct staff to pursue that.

Supervisor Mohr explained that the open Space was a nice thing to do but Fire Service is needed. The Township is required to provide fire service. Secretary/Treasurer also reminded everyone that we are funding Volunteer Fire and not paid which would be harder on the Township.

Joe Terrible agreed that other funding will need to happen for the Fire Companies, but this is a start given the expectations of expense in the future. There will still need grant applications and fundraising.

Colt Hershinger – Saint Peters Road– asked if the developers get a fire or emergency tax for each house they build. Manager Carter explained that we are not allowed to charge the developers per the Municipal Planning Code. Colt asked how to change the MPC. Manager Carter said that would have to be addressed at the State level.

Kevin Kleinsmith of Shimerville Rd and Western District Fire Co. stated that the radio expense alone will use up one year of the proposed fire savings.

Manager Carter then asked for clarification on the direction to proceed. He asked if Staff is to make any changes or to proceed as proposed. Staff was directed to proceed as proposed.

Phil Casey - asked about the communication tower outside, asked about the generator on the tower and if it was hooked up to the building. Manager Carter stated it was never to be hooked up to the building. Secretary/Treasurer stated that the Tower power needs were not much. The Tower is owned by the Commonwealth.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: - Not needed

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

Chairman John D. Zgura

11/07/2024
Date

Secretary/Treasurer Jessi O'Donald