

The Workshop Meeting for the Moore Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) was called to order on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, by Chairman Daniel Piorkowski at 5:00 PM. The meeting was conducted at the municipal building. Members present were Chairman Daniel Piorkowski, Supervisor Michael Tirrell, and Township Manager Nicholas Steiner.

Resolution 2023-21 Statewide LSA Grant for Speed Trailer and Electronic Speed Limit Signs

The minimum to apply for the LSA grant is \$25,000, the speed trailer being applied for is only \$18,000. Chief West and Mr. Hoffman found electronic speed signs to place in troublesome areas, as well as bringing the grant amount closer to \$25,000. One sign costs \$3,941.67, they are portable and solar powered.

Mr. Tirrell made motion to approve Resolution 2023-21 Statewide LSA Grant for Speed Trailer and three Electronic Speed Limit Signs

Mr. Piorkowski seconded

Public Comment

None

Motion carried with all Supervisors present voting aye

FirstNet Service change for Public Works Department

It was noticed not all the Public Works employees use the provided phones. FirstNet makes a small box radio that runs off their Rapid Response. They also make a box for the vehicles the radios clip into, so it doesn't need to be carried around on their side while in the work vehicles, plowing, etc. The devices themselves cost 99 cents. The vehicle boxes are \$4,000 for all 10 of them, and they can be installed in-house. The current service plan for the phones is \$240. By switching to these devices, it would increase to \$385/ a month. Mr. Hoffman added how these would be more efficient for the crew. Instead of calling each person individually, he can communicate to them all at one time through the radio. He also mentioned how clear they were during the demo, and the man doing it was over 100 miles away.

Mr. Tirrell made motion to approve new radios from FirstNet

Mr. Piorkowski seconded

Public Comment

None

Motion carried with all Supervisors present voting aye

Municipal Doors

A contractor was brought in to look at the doors while the electronic access is being installed. A few of the doors will need to be replaced. The entrance to the Police Station is eroding most likely due to weather and salt in winter. Mr. Steiner's office door is rusty to the point there is a draft that comes through. The meeting room door will need to become a push bar door for the electronic access, and it also has air coming through due to its seal. A company BEI works with called Mohawk gave a quote from Builders Door and Hardware (who is a COSTARS dealer) of \$6,803 for the doors. Mohawk would then install them for an additional \$10,072. Another contractor was asked for a quote but never gave one.

Mr. Piorkowski made motion to approve the purchase of new doors in the amount of \$16,875

Mr. Tirrell seconded

Public Comment

None

Motion carried with all Supervisors present voting aye

2024 Budget

Beginning with the General Fund, Mr. Steiner projects an earned income increase of 7.4%. The Amusement Tax will be removed. An estimated value of the property has not been received from real estate. This includes the 2022 grant reimbursement for the Statewide LSA for the paver. Once the paver arrives in Spring and payment is made, he can turn it over to CFA for quick reimbursement. The amount also includes Body Cams for the police using the PCCD grant. Small reimbursements were added for bulletproof vests, county electronic recycling event, and the Susquehanna Municipal Trust grant to purchase an AED for the meeting room. The cable\TV Franchise Fees are dropping, but may increase with the addition of Blue Ridge Cable this year. Projected amount being the same as 2023. There are no more ARPA funds. \$12,000 was kept the same for Rec. concessions. Pavilion rentals projected to be a little less than in 2023 and field rentals a little more than in 2023.

Surplus rebates from health insurance are not expected to occur in 2024. Health\Prescription insurance is increasing about 9% individual, 9.6% family. Dental\Vision remain the same. Worker's compensation for paid staff will increase about 2.9%, Volunteer fire increasing about 3%. Short term disability \life insurance will have no increase for another year.

General insurance including property, auto, equipment, including the Klecknersville Rangers, will be switching from Trident, our current provider, to McKee. Trident would have been a 29% increase in premium, largely due to the loss of ambulances at the Rangers, with some inflation across the industry. McKee will be a 17% increase. Mr. Steiner recommended talking with another insurance broker next year for 2025, who has had great reviews, Ricky Neith. Mr. Steiner also noted more communication needs to be done between the Township and the Rangers, or a decision needs to be discussed on whether the Township should continue to carry them on insurance. Surrounding municipalities all handle it differently. General code, which is \$1,900 for the year to keep up with the website service, also an annual codification. TCC is going to be taken out directly from Keystone instead of them sending a bill.

Non-contract employees' pay increase of 3%. The Public Works contract is 2.5% and the police is 2.75%. Under Executive and Salary Wages, this includes the Manager and Secretary wages for the meetings. Under Auditing services, it will be the last year for the ARPA consultant cost and the last year for the current CPA. In 2024, a new price for a CPA will be needed, an RFP will have to be sent out. The tax collector remitted 2023 expenses, which were bonds that were supposed to be covered by the Township, now back on track only covering the bonding on an annual basis.

Engineering was a high amount this year. Due to culverts, studies, MS4, etc. Mr. Steiner projects other studies being added as well as projects, \$100,000. Also added was \$30,000 in case of hiring an architect to redesign the Township building or to build a new one on the property behind the current building. \$30,000 was kept as general repair funds. The police roof will most likely need to be replaced. Includes electronic access fees, internal lock changes, and the SMT grant.

The upcoming year is a contract year for the police. Funding for 8 radios is included, \$40,000, Northampton County plans to upgrade by 2025. Also, funding for the PCCD body grants, new computers and 2 new AEDs for the police vehicles. Mr. Steiner added a police vehicle to the budget regardless of the LSA grant outcome.

Planning and Zoning received a quote for the Comp Plan ordinance update. The consultant who did Bushkill Township's quoted \$26,000. Mr. Harhart then reached out to EPD who did Lower Nazareth's. Their quote was \$5,000 to review the plan, and an additional \$11,000 to create and update what is needed. This will be discussed at the BOS meeting on November 2nd, 2023.

Recycling and Collections includes funds for advertising and the event itself. The FRCA built in increases in previous years, so Mr. Steiner added that for next year but is unsure if it will be applied. Mr. Piorkowski questioned if it was discussed previously to look for another collection company. Mr. Steiner and Mr. Hoffman noted it was briefly discussed and not very many options are available. Chapmans also asked if they could drop their collections off at the Township, and they were directed to contact FRCA since they govern that.

Public Works includes all of Mr. Brandon Biery's salary and 22 weeks of Mr. Al Hawk's. Mr. Hawk's salary is split between the Rec. Center and the Public Works (mainly Winter months). Mr. Biery's was also split since another guy is usually over there as well. Mr. Piorkowski questioned the hiring of a Public Works employee. Mr. Steiner and Mr. Hoffman explained there will be 2 guys retiring this year, but only 1 new employee will be hired. This budget does project the salary of the expected new hire, as well as the expense for the paver. \$375,000 is for the MS4 upgrades that have been pushed off 3-4 years. This does not include the additional in-house work that will be needed should the plans go as Mr. Horvath suggested. There is \$300,000 for asphalt, but the number could be closer to \$250,000. Mr. Hoffman is discussing this with Keystone. Between Liquid Fuels and General Fund for paving roadways and fixing culverts, there is a total of \$600,000. Should a culvert not need to be replaced, the asphalt payments would be moved to Liquid Fuels.

Recreation includes 30 weeks for Mr. Hawk and for 2 part-time employees. There is a line kept for continuing paving through the Rec. Center. This also includes \$15,000 from the Rec. Commission for trail improvements, and the Brick Program expenses. Some other items are the request for siding which will be done in house, a UV sanitizer for the football stand, new pavilion lights and new windows for the baseball snack stand. Included in the General Fund budget is the request for Playground in the Park for \$2,000 and prior funding level request for the basketball court resurfacing including posts, backboards, and rims. General Fund also includes any infrastructure expense to acquire internet for the security cameras and replacing broken football light fixtures.

Historical includes the schoolhouse project. Mr. Horvath will be bringing an increase of about \$3-4K for issues found after starting the project.

Mr. Steiner stated the deficit will be around \$860,000. He explained if this budget is adopted, prior year balance would be used and still give roughly \$800,000-900,000 to start 2025 assuming the 2023 surplus is \$255,000. If the culvert replacement is not needed, that will bring the amount down by \$300,000. There is also the MS4 project which is a large expense for the year. Mr. Tirrell questioned if the funds from Act 14 could be used. Mr. Steiner thinks some can but is unsure on exactly what. Mr. Tirrell also asked if the Township could search for a new portable sanitation company since the one currently hired is not doing the required maintenance. Mr. Hoffman will look into this.

The Liquid Fuels budget includes the Freightliner being paid off, \$300,000 for the major culvert repair, and crack sealing and patch coat. There is also \$10,000 for guiderails.

The Open Space Fund includes the Livable Landscapes Grant. The Schiavone closing is expected in 2023. Expenses include extension of the Schiavone parking lot and restocking the fish in the ponds. Preservation expenses and easements are also included.

The Enterprise Fund includes a swing set replacement. Haupt Fund includes \$35K for new field lights. All requests regarding the Edelman School house are included in the Edelman School account, except the construction being done by Mr. Bob Fedio. Those requests include cleaning supplies, electric installation, opening ceremony, pest control, electric baseboards, a flag kit, dehumidifier, and dusk-dawn light. Mr. Steiner also added schoolhouse signs. An amount of \$9,200 was carried over.

Mr. Tirrell questioned raising the Enterprise Fee. He feels it should be higher than \$2,000. Mr. Piorkowski mentioned maybe two different amounts could be discussed, one for minor subdivisions and one for major subdivisions. This topic will be discussed in the future. Mr. Hoffman added Keystone is working on an updated map of the roads that have been worked on since he has been here.

Mr. Tirrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM

Mr. Piorkowski seconded the motion

Public Comment

None

Motion carried with all Supervisors present voting aye

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Yost
Secretary

Not intended to be a word for word, but a synopsis of the meeting.