# CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Tony J. Sacco at 6:10 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President Edward L. Gottschall, Sheri Hoover, Lorri K. Swan, and Ruth O'Leary. Also attending were Fire Chief Scott R. Brady, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Public Works James A. Beane, Recreation Director Samson Gausch, Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, Secretary Latoya Procopio.

#### **PUBLIC**

Attendance: Andrew Wagaman of the Reading Eagle.

#### **2016 BUDGET**

### 1) Budget Cuts

The Board reviewed budget cuts and inter-fund reallocations suggested by the Manager.

- As stated on 11/4/15, the former sewer TV truck had been transferred to Buildings & Grounds for the custodian's use. The original draft budget proposed installing a new bed or service body and a plow for the parking lots. The proposed budget cut was to purchase only a plow and do welded repairs to the body. The Board agreed.
- The original draft budget proposed installing a new bed on truck 67. The proposed budget cut was to do welded repairs to the bed. The Board agreed.
- The Board initially cut the chlorine tank system for the recreation building, but kept the funding in place after discussion. If the water testing fails for even a single test, PaDEP will require installation of a chlorine treatment system and closure of the building until the project is installed and inspected. Rentals and some activities would be canceled during that time, which could be lengthy.
- Discussion took place on the extent of HVAC system replacements to be budgeted for the main office building. Mr. McNichols presented documentation to the Board from prior years on the number and types of HVAC units in the building, and the plan to replace them gradually. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the heat pumps were being replaced 1 or 2 at a time as a proactive measure due to their age and repair history, without incurring the extreme expense of replacing all 30+ of them at the same time. Sometimes, a unit scheduled for replacement fails prior to being replaced, due to the difficulties acquiring the appropriate replacement units. This scenario occurred in the upper level administration office this year. One of the units targeted for 2016 replacement is the heat pump in the Police Chief's office, taking the opportunity to do work while the office is vacant. The Board decided to retain the funding for HVAC units. Mr. Sacco requested that a consultant review the HVAC system.

Mr. Sacco expressed concern about workshop meetings not being used for internal planning. Ms. Johnston reminded the Board of the 10 year capital plan presented, but not formally adopted, at a workshop meeting in 2014. The draft plan had been retained and is used as a working document to track progress on long term goals. She proposed to once again present it to the Board, with the understanding that a new Chief of Police will have input into long term planning for the police department. The Board requested an update in 2016.

- The Board retained funding for a replacement traffic marking machine.
- On 11/9/15, a 10 year plan for gradual replacement of the play structures was proposed by escrowing \$10,000/year and expensing the escrow every 3-4 years. The Board retained the escrow in the budget, but reduced the amount to \$5,000/year.
- On 11/4/15, the Board indicated that the driveway and parking area on the east side of the campus should be partially expensed out of funds other than the general fund. The Board decided the general fund should contribute 40%, the sewer fund should contribute 40%, and the refuse fund should contribute 20%.
- The original draft budget proposed to purchase a new vehicle for the Assistant Public Works Superintendent, since his vehicle has over 112,000 miles and a significant repair history. As an alternative, Ms. Johnston proposed to transfer the Administration/Manager's Jeep, with less than 30,000 miles, to the Assistant Public Works Superintendent. That vehicle would be replaced with the Jeep Commander recently taken out of service with the police department. One of the current administration vehicles, a Dodge Charger with over 99,000 miles and a former police patrol car, would be sold.
- A recent study of the police department recommended the purchase of pass-through lockers for the evidence room in the main office building. In the draft budget, this purchase was proposed using general funds. In the revised draft budget, Ms. Johnston proposed to purchase these using equitable sharing funds. The Board agreed.
- For the fire fund, Ms. Johnston requested guidance from the Board on the part-time career firefighter position and the wage for the part-time trainer. The Board indicated that the career firefighter should remain part-time. The wage for the trainer was increased by \$.75 over the 2015 rate.

#### 2) Fire Operations Capital

Proposed fire fund operations capital projects were discussed as a follow up to the meeting on 11/16/15. Chief Brady informed the Board that the garage doors on Station 2 need to be replaced because they have become a safety issue. The Board agreed to budget this project. Chief Brady also advised the Board that the roof over the bays on Station 2 is rapidly deteriorating. The Board discussed the possibility of repairing the roof or replacing the roof. The Board came to a tentative decision of replacing the roof, but first would like to receive a presentation from Hartman Fire Consultants, to be able to make an informed decision on the potential new fire facility. The Board instructed Chief Brady to bring the consultant back to give a presentation of his findings to the Board.

# 3) Liquid Fuels Fund

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the liquid fuels budget. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that some, but not all, of the road work on year 1 of the 5 year plan could be paid out of the liquid fuels fund. However, some of it would have to be paid out of general capital funds.

# 4) General Fund Overall and Capital Projects Fund

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that, although the general fund in 2016 had a projected deficit of revenue v. expenses, the Treasurer has noted a substantial carry over expected from 2015. This carry over provides enough funding to implement year 1 of the 5 year road work plan and most other items in the capital projects fund proposed or already obligated for 2016. As described on 11/4/15, year 1 of the 5 year plan includes storm water work, which is reflected in

the general fund storm water construction line item. With respect to the capital projects fund, the Board deferred transfer of funds from the general fund at this time for all of the projects anticipated in 2016, because of uncertainties about estimates and timing. In consideration of the substantial carry over from 2015, the Board determined that the general real estate millage should not be increased for 2016.

### 5) Debt Service Fund

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the debt service fund. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that there is 2015 carryover in the fund that could absorb the 2016 deficit. The Board determined that the millage should not be increased for 2016.

# 6) Refuse Fund

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the refuse fund. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that there is 2015 carryover in the fund that will absorb the 2016 deficit. Several new line items were created in the refuse fund to track diverse costs more easily that are now expensed out of a single line item. The Board determined that the refuse fee should not be increased. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that PaDEP representatives recently remarked on the Cumru refuse fee as low, compared to that of other municipalities.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

A) Meeting Advertised in the Reading Eagle 11/11/2015

ON MOTION OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY TO ADVERTISE THE 2016 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC REVIEW, WITH ADJUSTMENTS AS DISCUSSED.

ADJOURNMENT ON MOTION OF MR. GOTSCHALL, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEET AT 8:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Latoya Procopio

Secretary