

Oldmans Township Committee
Budget Meeting Minutes
December 29, 2011

A Budget Meeting of the Oldmans Township Committee was held on December 29, 2011. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller at 4:30 PM. This meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: William Miller, Harry Moore and George Bradford.

Gov Deals - Mr. Nipe researched the value of the surplus equipment that the Township wishes to sell on Gov Deals. His recommendations were based on the mid-range value of the equipment. The ambulance does not have a recommended reserve due to its poor condition.

Atlantic Electric – Ms. Taylor presented a letter from Atlantic City Electric inquiring if the Township would like to be notified of any shutoffs. This information would be passed onto the fire companies.

Draft of Salary Ordinance for 2012 – Mr. Hackett presented a draft of the 2012 salary ordinance in which he eliminated some separate jobs because some of the jobs are now listed under the job description for Public Works Director and Municipal Clerk. Also included in the ordinance is a 2.0% salary increase. Activities Coordinator is listed as a job description just in case, but has never been paid out. Recycling Coordinator now needs to be a certified position; Cynthia Dalessio is being recommended for that position. Recycling recordkeeping will still be done by Public Works.

Budget Worksheets – Mr. Hackett presented the budget worksheet which does not include any grants other than Municipal Alliance. Reductions were made in clerk salary/wages, municipal court, zoning board and streets & roads wages. There was an increase in construction code for Ryan Homes, gasoline/diesel and telephone. Mr. Miller wanted to know if Master Plan was included in Planning Board as there are 3-4 elements left in the Master Plan to be completed. Mr. Hackett stated there can be a special emergency ordinance or put in budget. The volunteer organizations were kept at the same amount of 2011 for discussion purposes. 2012 will be the first year to have a reduction in the recycling tonnage grant. Mr. Hackett requested of the Committee whether the Coah Fair Share Plan line item was to be kept in and if so, what amount. Mr. Miller recommended to keep the line item, but limit to \$2,500. In regard to PERS, Mr. Hackett stated that there is a decrease from last year. Currently one penny equals approximately \$21,000 but will have the tax assessor determine the penny cost. There is still some tweaking of the budget such as volunteer organizations, need state aid figures, reserve for uncollected taxes and the tax rate. Overall there is an approximate decrease of \$15,000 from last year. Should not have a problem with spending cap; could have a problem with the tax rate cap, will know in January.

Mr. Hackett will assist Mr. St. John in filing State paperwork for retirement. Mr. St. John will have to retire for one month before coming back as a crossing guard.

Next Budget Meeting: January 26, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Payment of Bills: Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the payment of the bills, Mr. Bradford seconded and all agreed.

Consolidation of Fire Protection – Mr. Hackett presented his ideas in regard to funding volunteer organizations. There appears to be duplication of big equipment which is township owned and not being utilized. The Township is responsible for funding volunteer organizations, not running them. It is common in the State of New Jersey to give a stipend to volunteer organizations and the organization is responsible for paying their own bills. Capital items could still be presented to the Committee and go out for bid. Gear should be interchangeable. Mr. Hackett also recommended an inspection for all equipment. Mr. Nipe should be able to maintain township equipment as well as emergency equipment in the new building such as oil/filter changes. Mr. Hackett recommended standardized operating procedures for all three volunteer organizations. There was also discussion about how much the Township would contribute to the payment of utilities and insurance for volunteer organizations. The Township doesn't own the buildings but funds 100% of many of the operating costs.

Mr. Bradford asked what budget number for fire budget?

Mr. Miller stated if the Township is going to have two fire companies, need to fully fund each.

Mr. Bradford was willing to entertain the thought of an increase to the local purpose tax to fund two companies.

Mr. Hackett stated an increase would be approximately 1.0 – 1.5% tax increase in cents.

Mr. Miller does not want to fund excess equipment or two fire companies. Neither company has enough volunteers, but too much equipment. NFPA standards – response time should be 14 minutes 80% of the time.

Mr. Moore agreed that there is too much duplicate equipment and not enough personnel to man equipment. Also has safety concerns which need to be addressed.

Ms. Melody Reese is in favor of combining equipment and purchasing. Auburn Fire would like one fully equipped truck and would cross-train with Logan Fire on their equipment.

Mr. Moore stated all emergency organizations should be brought together with Mr. Hackett and Mr. Hoffman to discuss consolidation.

Mr. Bradford wanted the entire Committee to be involved in the discussions.

Mr. Hackett felt that Mr. Hoffman would not be required to attend. Need the following in order to continue funding:

1. Evaluation/inventory of all equipment
2. List of capital equipment needed this year
3. Inequity of utilities
4. Training needs to be standardized
5. Equipment should be interchangeable
6. Cooperation from fire companies

Mr. Moore would like copies of personnel and their fire qualifications.

Mr. Hackett stated roster and training should be submitted to Township by Jan. 26h. JIF covers Auburn and Ambulance buildings and Logan's contents. He will talk with Gary Moore about insurance coverage of Logan's building to evaluate which policy is better coverage – theirs or JIF's.

After discussion about payment of volunteer organizations utilities, it was agreed to the following:

100% of heating costs

50% of electric costs

Mr. Hackett will look at each volunteer organization and meet with each chief and captail to refine numbers. Would like a plan of action implemented by Jan. 26th. Also in the first ten days of 2012, Mr. Hackett would like to begin having the equipment evaluated.

Public Comment:

Doris Mackannan - Concerned about old houses being close together; wants Auburn to stay open.

John Mackannan - Willing to pay taxes to keep Auburn open.

Mr. Miller - The Township has a responsibility to the tax payers.

Bob DelPercio - Thanked Jim for his ideas. Would like to see an Oldmans Township Fire Safety Committee set up made up of 5 people who know equipment. Suggested Jim Hackett and Ms. Taylor for note taking – unbiased. The committee would make recommendations to Mr. Moore to bring to the committee. Township has control of the budget – keep one budget but fund two companies. Standardization of equipment , policy and training would be helpful.

Mr. DelPercio also questioned the bond for the new municipal complex.

Mr. Hackett - Stated there was a Capital Ordinance in the amount of \$1.8 million. \$1.5 million can be borrowed as \$300,000 was already paid. Last time he was involved in borrowing a large sum, \$1.4 million, the interest rate was 1.11%.

Dolores Bradford - The Committee has heard from Melody in previous meetings. Wanted to know if Salem County trains all volunteers.

Mr. Miller - Stated some training done in county and the county does a good job but continued training is needed such as required drills.

Melody Reese - Thought a list of same vendors for things such as turnout gear and fit testing would be a good idea.

Public Comments Closed

Logan Fire Company Member Application – Daniel Cogdill. Was a junior member and now would like to be a full member. A motion to approved was made by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Mr. Moore and all agreed.

Ms. Reese wanted to know if the Committee had acted upon Woody's membership for Auburn Fire Company. Mr. Moore did not have the application at that time.

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Nipe about the equipment vendors from the State convention. Mr. Nipe spoke to one vendor about plows and salt box for future purchase.

Mr. Moore seconded and all agreed.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Bradford and all agreed to adjourn meeting at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Taylor, Acting Municipal Clerk