

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
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NOVEMBER 24, 2009
BUDGET MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M. by President Tarlini.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Council members Greer, Monahan, Davis, Pluta and Tarlini were present at the meeting.

SEWER DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Gordon stated the sewer engineer is here. Expenses are up thirteen point five percent. A ten percent increase is proposed. A two million dollar H2O grant and a nine million dollar Pennvest loan are also in the budget. The project list is eleven million dollars. The engineer and administrative cost of the capital project total nine million dollars. We were not aware when the original budget was prepared that the Pennvest loan was approved. Additional projects for the collection and conveyancing system will be done because of the Pennvest Loan. The EPA grant was received for the collection system. Pennvest is only for the plant. The bond proceeds amount changed. Inflow and infiltration work changed to \$127,641. Mr. Bartlett stated Musser will do the repair work. We will televise. Vice President Pluta stated I don't want to pay Musser to do the job twice. Mrs. Gordon said we have money in capital projects also. The November 24, 2009 worksheet has the details. Councilwoman Davis asked why two codes are in the budget for fines? Mr. Bartlett stated one is contingency. President Tarlini stated the fines go back many years. Now we are getting a total. Mr. Bartlett stated the Township is negotiating with the EPA and DEP for a consent decree to bring full compliance. They went back years looking at violations. It is a matter of working things out. Mr. Sacco worked with the EPA on the consent decree. They could fine or assume operations if these items are not done. DEP and EPA and Bristol Township all negotiated. We are close to finalizing the consent decree. Originally the fines were high. We are working on taking the advice of the solicitor to budget for those fines. Payment might be over an eighteen month period. Mrs. Gordon said pro-active actions with Pennvest and the plant will help get the fines reduced.

Wayne Turner asked what details are to follow? Mr. Bartlett stated they will be attached to the final budget so everyone can see the various projects. Mrs. Gordon stated part of the reason it is not included. We weren't sure if we were getting the Pennvest Loan. Vice President Pluta said most projects are directly related to the fines and some are to eliminate possible permit violations.

Councilwoman Davis stated line item 754429-035 is for part time summer help. People were asked to cut back hours, this doesn't make sense. Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to cut line item 754429-035 part time summer help to zero. Second by Councilman Greer. Poll: Council members Greer, Monahan, Davis and Tarlini voted yes. Council member Pluta voted no. Motion approved 4-1.

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Ms. Rosenberg asked why line item 754429-050, payroll plant overtime is increased? Vice President Pluta stated when will the work be done? Mrs. Gordon responded not until September. History to date overtime is \$95,000. There are many alarms and problems creating the overtime. Reduction of overtime depends on when the work gets done. Vice President Pluta asked for the current amount for overtime to date. Mrs. Gordon stated the figure is since October. President Tarlini called for the motion to change line item 754429-050, payroll plant overtime to \$70,000. Mr. Bartlett stated it is currently at \$84,000. President Tarlini *withdrew* the motion. President Tarlini called for the motion to reduce line item 754429-050 payroll, plant overtime to \$90,000. Second by Vice President Pluta. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

Vice President Pluta asked what is line item 754428-900, transfer to general fund? Mrs. Gordon responded overhead not charged to the sewer department, the manager, his assistant, the building, we charge some directly, this is basic overhead costs. Vice President Pluta called for the motion to reduce line item 754428-900 completely and said where this number came from. The motion *died* for a lack of a second.

Ms. Rosenberg stated we don't have a sewer director that could be a reduction. Vice President Pluta stated we need to keep that there. The consent decree dictates staffing. Ms. Rosenberg said we could reduce the salary. President Tarlini said the director does pretreatment and the work of the director. Ms. Rosenberg said we can lower the salary. Vice President Pluta stated we don't know the salary required. Mrs. Gordon stated more would be spent on consulting engineers because of not having a director, which would make up the difference.

President Tarlini asked do all agree with the cuts? Councilman Greer said motions second and voted on were agreed to and we would like those changes. President Tarlini said we would like Mrs. Gordon to make the changes agreed on tonight. Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to agree to cuts and increases for the 2010 budget in addition to the motions. Second by President Tarlini to agree to all changes made by the Finance Director and all that Council made by motion. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

Ms. Koserick asked why line item 754429-540, telephone increased? Mrs. Gordon responded the increase was because of the addition of a T1 line. Mr. Bartlett stated the line is to network the sewer to the township network. The T1 line is for Public Works and the Sewer Department. They can fully access everything.

Mrs. Gordon stated the street lights; line item 024299-900 street light operating transfer out is increased because of the street lights in Newportville.

Ms. Rosenberg suggested turning off the lights on Route 413 to save \$30,000. President Tarlini stated we will look into this expense. Line item 024299-480 electric decorative street lights is increased because of Newportville; it includes the electric for Newportville and Route 413. Councilwoman Davis stated you could turn them off. It looks like a runaway on Route 413. Ms. Rosenberg stated I could see keeping the lights in Newportville but not on Route 413.

RECREATION:

Mr. Bartlett stated Cheri Champey proposed to eliminate the Township fair this year. There is a potential for loss, between weather and competition. Possibly we could replace it with a no cost factor one day Community Event with the Churches and Organizations. The Civic Organization can do a food fest and pay \$20 for space at very little cost to the Township. Electric would be saved. TD Bank could still donate the fireworks display or something else for the Township wide program. Small groups in the Township could do fundraising. Fees would cover porta-johns and staff can clean up on Monday. Also, the summer camp program fee should be \$500 per resident and \$550 for non-residents. This is more comparable to other programs. This is a seven week program. It was \$350. President Tarlini stated when comparing to others what do they give? It is a good program but I don't know what those other programs have, we should check first. I agree with the fair. Councilwoman Davis stated camp is not fair to the residents. Most camps charge more. The director checked on this and recommended the increase. President Tarlini stated I would like to know what the others have. Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to increase summer camp, line item 053230-004 to \$500 for residents per camper and \$550 for outside residents per camper. Second by Vice President Pluta. Poll: Council members Monahan, Greer, Davis and Pluta voted yes. Council member Tarlini voted no. Motion approved 4-1.

Mr. Obert stated I disagree with getting rid of the fair. We should have a fair and food fest it could make money. President Tarlini stated the senior center uses their kitchen for the food. Mr. Bartlett stated the fair would have food concessions in the agreement. We can leave it in there and continue working on that. Vice President Pluta stated the last two years were affected by the weather. It is a good program. Councilwoman Monahan stated it should be done later in the summer. There are many carnivals in the area during the summer. President Tarlini stated we could have it similar to Croydon; it would still be a community event.

Ms. Rosenberg stated we discussed the two and a half full time in recreation the Mayor put in the budget, four and a half for this year but no decision was made. President Tarlini stated there is a good possibility of layoffs to balance the budget. I have a problem with seasonal help and part time if full time is to be laid off. I am not certain until we see the other cuts. This will be revisited.

Wayne Turner recommended pay cuts or salary caps.

President Tarlini stated ninety-nine percent of the employees are union and contractual. There is nothing to do without an agreement. We hope to do something or there will be layoffs. We have two-hundred four employees, currently.

Ms. Rosenberg stated the Budget Committee recommends Committee supports recommended by payroll reduction by furloughs, etc. The Committee supports a mutual effort to renegotiate contracts to reduce layoffs and shortfalls. There are several surrounding municipalities with these problems taking steps to meet these problems. President Tarlini stated a lot is happening everywhere. We will try our best with the unions. Ms. Rosenberg stated there was no tax increase in years and that is why we are in this position.

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WATER DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Gordon discussed the Water budget. There is a ten percent increase, voted at last meeting to meet costs, other than that, there is a small contractual cost. Mr. Bartlett stated Aqua is going to the PUC for another increase. If need be that would be a pass through rate increase. Ken Smith stated Aqua should notify Newportville residents so they can go to the PUC. Mrs. Gordon will check to see if they are notified and if not notify them.

Mrs. Gordon stated the grant fund was reviewed.

A break was held from 8:30 P.M. to 8:35 P.M.

Mrs. Gordon stated fund 17, curb and sidewalk reserves was reviewed. We are waiting for this fund to build up.

Councilwoman Davis asked what is line item 19499-660 capital project, engineer for? Mr. Bartlett stated if we run into a problem we would use that line item. Councilwoman Davis stated we should put that into a fund. If we want to use it for reserves we can. Councilwoman Davis called for the motion to transfer \$30,000 from line item 194199-320, capital projects, engineering to line item 194920-095, reserves. Second by President Tarlini. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

President Tarlini called for the motion to change to two dump trucks, not four. Vice President Pluta called for the motion to *table* the change from two dump trucks to four until more information is received. Second by Councilman Greer. Poll: Council members Monahan, Greer and Pluta voted yes. Council members Davis and Tarlini voted no. Motion approved 3-2.

Councilwoman Davis stated this will be discussed November 30, 2009 meeting.

President Tarlini stated line item 254342-345 recycling containers, where is the revenue? Mrs. Gordon responded the reverse side is in the general fund it offsets the salary of the receptionist that sells them. Mr. Obert stated the sale of recyclables, line item 253210-050 dropped from \$84,000 to \$5,000 why? This should be checked. Mrs. Gordon stated the County sells the recyclables. There is no market for that right now. Councilman Greer said we should request the County's figures. President Tarlini called for the motion to *table* hiring of a second employee. Second by Councilwoman Davis. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

President Tarlini called for the motion to approve the cuts recommended by the Finance Manager for the police department. Second by Councilman Monahan. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved.

President Tarlini stated we will need a new budget for November 30, 2009.

Vice President Pluta commended the people in the Township who made sacrifices to save jobs.

Mr. Kehoe thanked all who worked on the budget.

A break was held from 9:30 P.M. to 9:35 P.M.

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President Tarlini stated November 30, 2009 is the next meeting and thanked the Budget Committee.

Ms. Rosenberg encouraged Council to take the recommendations and have a professional renegotiate all the contracts coming up. Also, revisit things discussed before; be creative through employees and benefits. Look at ways for cutting hours.

President Tarlini stated some unions are trying to negotiate some things and are aware of the situation. We will wait to see what they come back with.

Ms. Koserick thanked all who worked on the budget.

Mrs. Gordon stated the initial budget presented by the Mayor used reserves in the amount of two point seven million dollars. Now, one point seven million dollars will be used. The estimated reserves should be four point three to four point eight million dollars. We will only fund part of the shortage with reserves. Since revenue will return, Council should increase taxes to help the shortfall. The increase would be an average of \$42 per year per home.

Vice President Pluta called for the motion to adjourn. Second by Councilman Greer. Poll: all ayes. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Denise Gorry
Secretary

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MOTIONS APPROVED:

1. Cut line item 754429-035 part time summer help to zero.
2. Reduce line item 754429-050 payroll, plant overtime to \$90,000.
3. Agree to cuts and increases for the 2010 budget in addition to the motions.
4. Increase camp to \$500 for residents per camper and \$550 for outside residents per camper.
5. Transfer \$30,000 from line item 194199-320, capital projects, engineering to line item 194920-095, reserves.
6. Approve the cuts recommended by the Finance Manager for the police department.

MOTIONS TABLED:

1. Table the change from two dump trucks to four until more information is received.
2. Table hiring of a second employee for recycling.