

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET ADOPTION HEARING MINUTES

DECEMBER 28, 2017

Minutes of the Budget Adoption Hearing held at 7:00 PM on December 28, 2017 at the New Danville Fire Company, 43 Marticville Road, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Present at the meeting were:

Robert Race, Jr., Chair
Cynthia T. Evans-Herr, Vice-Chair
E. John Hlavacek, Supervisor/Roadmaster

Others present:

Lori Ann Leitch, Secretary-Treasurer
Sign-in Sheet Attached

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The first and foremost priority of this meeting is to publicly conduct Pequea Township business. In that effort, the Supervisors sincerely ask everyone in attendance to stay focused on what is of best interest for our township and during that process be respectful towards other people's comments, concerns and/or feelings. Expression of personal feelings of disrespect or disruption of this meeting is not an option.
- The annual organizational meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on January 2, 2018 at the New Danville Fire Company. Please submit a letter to the Board of Supervisors promptly if you are interested in serving on the Board of Auditors, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Vacancy Board, or serving as the Constable.
- Magisterial District Judge William E. Benner, Jr. administered the Oath of Office to the newly-hired Police Officers at 6:00 PM on December 28, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider adopting the 2018 Proposed Budget

Chair Race began to make a motion. Harry Lehman of 21 Silver Mine Road interrupted him. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr requested a recess.

Chair Race called a recess at 7:03 PM. The meeting reconvened at 7:12 PM. Chair Race opened the floor to Public Comments on the General Fund Budget.

Ken Adams of 39 Cobblestone Drive asked if the real estate tax rate is the highest allowable by law following the county reassessment. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr confirmed it is.

Mr. Adams then questioned revenue account 362.100 Special Police Services. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr responded the figure represents salary reimbursement from the county for an officer's participation in the Lancaster County Drug Task Force.

Mr. Adams requested additional information regarding the increase in 355.051 State Aid for the Police Pension Plan. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr explained the townships participating in the regional police force each

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET ADOPTION HEARING MINUTES

DECEMBER 28, 2017

received a portion of the State Aid to be sent to the Police Commission in the past. In 2018, Pequea Township will receive the full amount.

Mr. Adams verified expense account 411.530 Fire Company Contributions was not reduced now that the Township has only recognized one fire company.

Finally, Mr. Adams asked for the number of full-time officers budgeted on payroll. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr responded five (5), not including the officer assigned to the Drug Task Force whose wages will be reimbursed by the county. Mr. Adams followed up his question by asking the number of full-time officers the Southern Regional Police Commission employed in 2017. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr answered seven (7).

Rob Reidenbach of 330 Pleasant View Drive finds it disappointing that the budget could not be pared down to avoid a tax increase. He recommended having a Legal Liaison to reduce attorney costs. He also believes the police expenses should be trimmed.

Jackie Johns of 23 Pine Lane stated a large amount of the legal expenses can be attributed to the voluminous Right-to-Know requests and the transition of the police department.

Chair Race moved to adopt the 2018 General Fund Budget. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

Chair Race opened the floor to Public Comments on the State Highway Fund Budget. Hearing none, Chair Race moved to adopt the 2018 State Highway Fund Budget. Supervisor Hlavacek seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

Chair Race opened the floor to Public Comments on the Recreation Fund.

Mr. Reidenbach asked how much the restoration of the stone house at the park is costing the township. Chair Race responded fees collected from developers in lieu of parkland are being used for this purpose. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr also said volunteers are doing a lot of the work.

Chair Race moved to adopt the 2018 Recreation Fund Budget. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments for items not on the agenda will be taken at this time. Please come to the lectern, state your name and address, and limit your comments to three minutes so that others can speak if they wish. Additional time may be granted at the Board's discretion.

Mr. Adams asked if arrangements have been made to cover any Police Commission expenses that come to light after the effective date of the termination. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr informed him a tail-end insurance policy has been purchased by the Commission.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET ADOPTION HEARING MINUTES
DECEMBER 28, 2017**

Mr. Adams inquired about the 2016 audit of the Southern Regional Police Commission. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr said it was not completed due to missing files and the lack of cooperation from employees at the time.

Mr. Adams then asked if the Police Commission had a Solicitor as of their last meeting. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr and Supervisor Hlavacek replied in the affirmative.

Jason Kreider of 116 Marticville Road questioned the staffing of the police department. Vice-Chair Evans-Herr stated adjustments will be made if necessary.

Mr. Lehman clarified the county reimburses municipalities for the wages of officers assigned to the Drug Task Force, but employee benefits are paid by the Township.

Mr. Lehman then asked Chair Race and Supervisor Hlavacek if they authorized Vice-Chair Evans-Herr to sign the "blue paper." They replied in the negative.

Richard Cummings of 320 Pleasant View Drive inquired about the "blue paper." Vice-Chair Evans-Herr explained it is a document she wrote at the request of Senator Scott Martin detailing her findings of impropriety during her tenure on the Police Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Race adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Ann Leitch, Secretary



2017-12-28 Budget Adoption Hearing - Sign in Sheet

Richard Szymanski Willow Street

Doane Thomp

Hj 6

Ken Adams

Rob Reidenbach Willow Street

Seth Ehrlich

Ken Staffe - NDPC

Greg Demasconi

Vacillie Johns

J. Kreider

MICHAEL KUNTZ