

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET HEARING MEETING - December 21, 2020

Present at the meeting were:

Harry Lehman, Chairman
Anthony Cazillo, Vice-Chairman
Scott Edwards, Supervisor
Eric Lucas, Supervisor
E. John Hlavacek, Supervisor

Others present:

Robert Reidenbach, Twp. Assistant/
Recording Sec.
Tom Haas
Jackie Johns
Elaine Juliet Jones
Brad Shenk

CALL TO ORDER: Chmn. Lehman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Lehman announced:

- The purpose of this meeting was to consider the final adoption of the 2021 budget.
- The Board of Supervisors held one Budget Workshop on October 17, 2020 to arrive at this proposed budget for 2021.
- Notice had been properly advertised on October 28, 2020, and a copy of the proposed Pequea Township Budget was made available at the Township office from October 28 to December 16, 2020.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Chairman Lehman told the audience that 2020 has been a very good year for Pequea Township. He highlighted the following accomplishments:

1. We were able to secure a great new location for our police department at the New Danville Fire Company and the Township entered into a five (5) year lease with them.
2. Improvements to the police station were completed with funds donated by our businesses and citizens with over \$24,000 raised to date for this purpose. Volunteers have completed much of the labor.
3. We will be returning to our meeting room and all township meetings will be held there beginning on January 4, 2021. Again, volunteers refinished our meeting room.
4. Securing township data has become a top priority when we discovered no backup systems were in place. The Board of Supervisors addressed this matter with immediate action acquiring the proper computer/retention experts to resolve the problem. We are now on the Cloud and procedures are in place.
5. Cost containment was a must as we kept legal and other expenses under control.

6. We obtained over \$70,000.00 in grant monies this year including \$28,000.00 for our new police car.
7. Procedures have been put in place to avoid losing Township income such as reimbursements for engineering costs.
8. For the first time in four years, we used General Fund money to do much needed road work. We will continue to do so in 2021.
9. We have begun the process of resolving Police Commission matters with Conestoga Township.
10. We anticipate ending 2020 with a surplus of approximately \$347,000.

“It has been a very good year for Pequea Township!”

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Questions or comments on the proposed 2021 budget

- Tom Haas asked for clarification on recouping engineering costs.
- Jackie Johns said 2021 should be better for earned income tax and real estate transfer tax. Chairman Lehman elaborated upon how the Township’s Board and employees' thrifty efforts attained the unexpected surplus. Supervisor Hlavacek explained that the surplus sounded excessive but assured the audience that it was necessary for future needed, unexpected expenses.

BUSINESS

1. Consider final adoption of the proposed Pequea Township 2021 Budget

A. Recreation Fund

Following discussion, Chairman Lehman moved to adopt the proposed Recreation Fund Budget for 2021. Supervisor Lucas seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

B. State Highway Fund

Following discussion, Vice-Chairman Cazillo moved to adopt the proposed 2021 State Highway Fund Budget. Supervisor Edwards seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

C. General Fund

Chairman Lehman reported the budgeted income at \$1,780,172.42, budgeted expenses at \$1,768,799.77, leaving a projected surplus of \$11,372.65. Following discussion, Vice-Chair Cazillo moved that we adopt the proposed 2021 General Fund budget. Supervisor Lucas seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed.

2. Set 2021 Tax Rates by Resolution 553-2020

Chairman Lehman moved to pass resolution 553-2020- A Resolution of the Township of Pequea, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania establishing the tax rate for the year 2021. Be it resolved and enacted and it is hereby resolved and enacted by the Board of Supervisors of Pequea Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania that a tax be and is hereby levied on all real property within the Township of Pequea subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2021, as follows:

Real Estate Tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 1.567 mills, or \$0.1567 on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable property.

Earned Income Tax at $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%.

Admission Tax at 10% as enacted under the Local Tax Enabling Act of December 31, 1965, P.L.1257.

Vice-Chairman Cazillo seconded the motion. Supervisor Lucas expressed his pleasure at no tax increase. Supervisor Hlavacek noted that while our millage may seem high in comparison to many nearby townships, we are supporting a police department. All voted in favor; none opposed.

Hearing adjourned at 6:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Reidenbach, Township assistant/recording secretary