

**SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET MEETING**

November 10, 2020

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The November 10, 2020 Budget Meeting of the South Strabane Township Board of Supervisors (Board) came to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Mae C. Reynolds Meeting Room of the Municipal Building (550 Washington Road).

The following were present:

Board of Supervisors	Thomas Moore, Chairman; Rich Luketich, Vice Chairman; Bracken Burns, Mark Murphy, and Bob Weber
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Also Present	Township Manager Brandon Stanick and Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Conners; Police Chief Drew Hilk; and Financial Analyst Marie Coffman
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No visitors were in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Moore stated the Board allocates a period of time during this item for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Board on any matter. Each person addressing the Board is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

There were no Public Comments.

3. FINALIZE REVIEW OF BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

Police Chief Hilk noted changes to the capital budget noting funding assistance through the CARES Act has shifted the purchase of the Records Management System and various associated equipment to the 2020 fiscal year. He then discussed a grant through the Department of Justice for the purchase of body cameras highlighting the Township is responsible for a 50% match of the total cost. He stated the total project cost is anticipated to be \$51,000 over the course of the next three years. He cited that every officer will be provided with a camera. Mr. Luketich inquired regarding the possibility of sharing cameras. After a brief discussion Chief Hilk stated that it would be possible and more efficient to share available cameras amongst the Department.

Mr. Luketich inquired regarding the proposed purchase of civil unrest equipment. Chief Hilk stated that the equipment would be used in an emergency capacity. He cited examples of civil unrest events within the Commonwealth highlighting that should a similar event occur in South Strabane

the Department does not have the proper equipment to protect every officer that would be on shift. Mr. Luketich inquired regarding the likelihood of the equipment being used. Chief Hilk stated that such an event is not likely, but that it is still possible, citing that it could happen anywhere. Mr. Burns inquired about the deployment of a regional civil unrest program citing a similar purchasing program that he took part in for Washington County. He noted that spreading the equipment amongst departments throughout the County would be the most efficient allocation of resources. He asked Chief Hilk to promote the idea during the upcoming year. Mr. Weber expressed his support for the regional approach.

Mr. Luketich then inquired regarding the purchase of additional handguns. Chief Hilk stated that currently the Department does not have additional firearms available within its inventory should an in-service weapon become unavailable. He then concluded by citing an increase in the Department's professional services line item. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors noted that each department has their respective IT costs, including off-site backups, separated within the 2021 budget to reflect a more accurate cost department wide.

Township Manager Stanick then discussed the overall budget, highlighting the three structural components of Personnel, Commodities, and Capital. He then illustrated the Police Budget using the aforementioned framework. He next discussed the projected long-term Capital budget noting that a separate bank account and checks would be issued for the fund. He stated the budget should be viewed through a project basis and should be a point of pride for the Township, as it is directly re-investing in the community. A discussion regarding the relationship between the Capital and General Fund ensued. Mr. Burns inquired regarding the Manifold Road Streambank Restoration. Township Manager Stanick noted that funds would be shifted in effort to save/budget for the project from the County Gaming Fund. Financial Analyst Coffman highlighted that because the funds are separate it is essential to show the transfer from Gaming Fund to Capital Fund.

Township Manager Stanick next discussed the projected Act 13 revenue, noting the funds are projected lower than previous years due to the Natural Gas Market. He cited that a significant portion of the Police Department's wages are allocated from the Act 13 revenue. Mr. Burns inquired regarding the Act 101 Fund, specifically asking how much of the revenue received by the state is being put towards "green initiatives". Township Manager Stanick reported that through the various facilities/amenities under operation (i.e. recycle center, recycle bins, etc.) the Township is projected to spend 50% of this year's revenue in 2021. Mr. Burns expressed his desire to see composting vessels available for residents. Additionally, a discussion regarding the continued sale of leaf bags ensued.

Mr. Weber inquired regarding the TIF funding. Township Manager Stanick explained the history of the TIF noting how it is currently reflected within the Budget. Mr. Burns then discussed the Township's recent relationship with the Local Government Academy (LGA) noting the Township's intern, Ms. Renna Wrubleski, was a participant in the LGA summer intern program. He advised he is a Board member for LGA and noted the LGA is a nonprofit organization and is reliant on contributions to continue its various educational programming, including the Municipal

Intern Program. He cited that a disproportionate amount of funding comes from Allegheny County and cited the lack of programming and available interns for other areas in the region municipalities. He expressed his desire to see the Township, and other Washington County municipalities to contribute to the LGA to ensure the County and its municipalities have access to essential programming moving forward. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors noted his experience as an LGA intern and advisor throughout multiple Municipal Intern Programs highlighting the excellence of the organization and its programming.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon J. Stanick
Township Manager