

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

October 3, 2022

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The October 3, 2022 Budget Meeting of the South Strabane Township Board of Supervisors (“Board”) came to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building (550 Washington Road, Washington, PA 15301).

The following were present:

Board of Supervisors	Bob Weber, Chair; Mark Murphy, Vice Chair; Bracken Burns; Russell Grego; and Richard Luketich.
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Absent	None
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Also Present	Township Manager Brandon Stanick
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2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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 of Supervisors is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

There were no comments from the Public.

3. REVIEW OF 2023 PROJECTED REVENUES

Township Manager Stanick reviewed the projected tax revenue for the 2023 year, including Real Estate Tax comprised of the current year, the revenue generated from the Victory Center Tax Increment Financing District (Tanger Outlets and Marriot Hotel), delinquent and the interim collections. Total Real Estate Taxes are projected at \$1.39 million for the 2023 tax year. He continued summarizing the following Local Enabling Taxes, including Per Capita Tax (\$31,976), Real Estate Transfer Tax (\$348,635), Earned Income Tax (\$1.69 million), Mercantile Tax (\$797,370) and Local Services Tax (\$359,462) for a total of \$3.23 million. Mr. Stanick noted the challenges that 2023 may bring with the interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve to address ongoing inflation fears.

Mr. Stanick reviewed the Non Tax Revenue for 2023 noting a projection of \$1,026,631 million. He reported that Interest Earnings have increased over the past year with the Township changing banks from Huntington to Washington Financial, but most importantly the earned interest from certificate of deposits with Slovenian Savings and Loan. Revenues have decreased regarding Rent as the Sanitary Authority was dissolved at the end of 2021 and the Washington County Sewage Counsel no longer operates out of the Municipal Building.

Mr. Stanick reviewed the anticipated projection for Municipal State Aid, a revenue received from the State for municipal pensions. The State Aid received this year was approximately 5% more than the projection of \$350,000. He noted Building Permit revenue is inline for the coming year at \$120,000; however, depending on the speed by which Burkett Manor or Bradford Run builds, this may increase. The Fire Hydrant Assessment Fee was not implemented earlier this year; however, those projected revenues are off-set with the increased proceeds from oil and gas impact fees over \$150,000 than what was projected.

Mr. Stanick summarized other miscellaneous non tax revenue including Winter Maintenance contracts with PennDOT and developments with non-dedicated roadways the Township maintains. The Dividends received as a result of the Township's participation in pooled trust with Municipal Risk Management have decreased over the years primarily due to performance. The Township is not proposing any new debt in the form of a Tax Anticipation Loan or Short Term Debt instruments. The total projected revenues for 2023 are estimated at \$6,076,385 with a Fund Balance of approximately \$250,000. This may change as we move through the budget process and discuss projects that are funded through Special Revenue Funds, such as Gaming Fund and Act 13 Impact Fee Fund.

Mr. Stanick reviewed the projections for the Gaming Fund, which are proceeds received by the State due to impacts of the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows, in an amount of \$162,000. This Fund is currently used to off set non-specific payroll expenses when projects are not proposed. Mr. Stanick reported that Act 13 Impact Fee Fund, which accounts for proceeds received from the operation of natural gas wells in and around the Township, were \$340,381 in 2022. This was \$150,381 more than the projection, or approximately 79% increase. This is a direct result of the higher average price of natural gas over the 2021 year. A discussion ensued regarding future Impact Fee revenue. Mr. Stanick also reviewed the Park and Recreation Fund, a fund to assist the Township in planning for capital expenditures for Township parks. He noted the fees for park facilities will be reviewed this year with the Comprehensive Fee Schedule to accommodate the improved amenities that have been constructed at Community Park and Billy Bell Park. Also, this year the Township had budgeted \$47,300 to commence with the construction of a dog park and Community Park. The Township was not awarded the grant by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2022, however, the Township will continue to pursue grant opportunities to accomplish the vision of the 2021 Community Park Master Plan. Mr. Stanick noted the \$47,300 that was planned for this year be moved to the Capital Fund and set aside for the dog park at Community Park in future years.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing for further to come before the Board, Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn. Mr. Luketich seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon J. Stanick
Township Manager