

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUDITORIUM**

Monday, January 27, 2020 – 6:11 p.m.

PROPER STATEMENT OF NOTICE – Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order stating that notice of the meeting had been posted on the municipal bulletin board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News, The Times, the Trentonian and the Hopewell Express (the official newspapers) on January 14, 2020, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

ROLL CALL: Those answering the roll call of the Municipal Clerk:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake, Kuchinski, Peters-Manning, Ruger, Mayor McLaughlin

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator/CFO Borges, Municipal Clerk Gompf, Director of Community Development/Engineer Kataryniak, Assistant CFO Troutman, Public Works Director Snyder, General Foreman Guerard

2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor McLaughlin turned the meeting over to Committee Member Kuchinski, the budget liaison. Committee Member Kuchinski related that the goals of the evening will be to finalize the Capital Budget and move that process ahead. He explained the advantages of adopting a Capital Budget in advance of the broader Budget.

Ms. Borges explained that a review of last year's chip seal program yielded an amount that would lower the portion of the Capital Budget which needs to be financed and as a result the down payment amount has also been reduced. This would bring the amount of new debt lower than the amount being paid off.

Committee Member Kuchinski reviewed items to be included in the Capital Budget such as:

- Chip Seal Program
- Road Program
- 2021 Road Program Prep
- Drainage/Easement Acquisition
- Draft Hydrant
- Community/Senior Center site plan
- COAH studies
- Multiway stop locations (3)
- The Townships portion of the Federal City and Bull Run Road signal installation
- Jet Vac Truck
- Loader with claw
- Road Mower
- 6 Vehicle Lifts
- Fuel Pumps
- DPW Access Phase II
- Pedestrian Crossing sign and Pennington RH Penn Harb
- Salt Barn

Items to be moved from the Capital Budget to departmental budgets included:

- Guide Rail work
- Ford Crossover

- Radar Units
- Mobile Radios
- Portable Radios
- Servers
- Recording phone system
- Body Cameras (3)

George Snyder, Director of Public Works and General Forman, Dave Guerard, presented the 2020 Department of Public Works operating budget.

Mr. Snyder reviewed the following within the operating budget:

- Removal from the budget of the weather service subscription
- Increased leaf disposal costs
- Guide Rail replacement and line striping
- Concrete Block and Asphalt disposal cost increase
- Training costs remained the same
- Requested that uniform allowance will include hats
- Increase to Street Sign Budget for a line driver
- Road Materials was increased due to materials for the parking lot
- Increase for rental equipment
- Condo reimbursement program

Mr. Snyder reviewed the following within the buildings and grounds budget:

- Addition of property maintenance expenses
- 2020 expenses for plumber and electrician to be examined
- Addition of the installation of bollards around the electrical boxes at the ball fields to be examined
- Addition of materials to build an evidence room for the police department; a water bottle filler and picnic table for the administration building; and an ice machine in public works.
- Fleet Maintenance costs
- Solid Waste and Recycling costs are escalating

A discussion ensued regarding reducing the cost of bulky waste.

Mr. Snyder introduced the concept of a shared services agreement with Pennington Borough for use of the public works' services. Committee members were amiable to the suggestion.

PUBLIC SECTION

Jon Edwards, a resident of Pennington Harbourton Road, raised the issue of salary increases and questioned if the bank of record which holds the Township's funds was a competitive process; what rate of interest is earned on the funds; and was another repository considered that could offer more competitive rates.

At 7:04 p.m., motion by Blake, seconded by Ruger to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

The detailed public meeting may be viewed at www.hopewelltp.org in the video library.

LAURIE E. GOMPF
MUNICIPAL CLERK