

Mr. McNichols presented options to the Board for the replacement body. Chief Winchester and Mr. McNichols recommended to the Board choose option A in the amount of \$16,700.00, a body with shelving. The liaisons would like for the vehicle to be painted white. Mr. McNichols stated there is a lead time for the truck body. If the radio is from RMI, then it would need to be sent out to be installed.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHROIZING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS TO REPURPOSE VEHICLE 91 WITH OPTION A TRUCK BODY, NOT TO EXCEED \$22,000.00, ALLOCATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE INTO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND.

2020 Budget

Police

4100-144 – PD-P/T Wages

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the line item was no longer needed. The Board of Commissioners agreed with deletion of the line item.

4100-183 – PD- Overtime Wages

The Board of Commissioner proposed to decrease the line item to \$70,000.00.

4100-002 – PD – Legal Services/Pension

Ms. Johnston stated there is a typo the line item should be \$500.00

4100-242 – PD – Hiring Expenses

Chief Winchester proposed new hires and promotions in 2020. This will also affect the PD – Uniform line item.

Mrs. O’Leary requested the line item be changed to \$12,000.00 as this line item can be unpredictable. The Board of Commissioners agreed with the change.

4190-521 – PD – Contr. To Crime Alert

The Board of Commissioners request the line item remain at \$1000.00

4190-522 – PD – BCERT Team

Chief Winchester requested the Township contribute \$2,500.00 for younger officers to potentially be able to participate in an additional program. Mrs. Hoover and Mrs. O’Leary expressed concerned with the issue of staffing due to BCERT commitments. Chief Winchester stated the department would make sure that partaking in BCERT would not interfere with daily operations of the Township.

4100-241 – PD – Training

Chief Winchester recommended increasing the line item by \$2,000.00 making the line item a total of \$20,000.00.

4100-243 – PD –Supplies/Protect Persons/Prop

Chief Winchester proposed the line item be \$14,000.00. He also stated the Township will continue to apply for the grant that will be available in May for the vests for the Officers.

4100-311 – PD – Auditor

The Board of Commissioners agreed to delete the line item.

4100-323 – PD – GPS

The typo is to be corrected to \$5,500.00

Fire Department

3620-500 – Fire – Permits

The Board of Commissioners agreed the permit fees be divided with Administration. The breakdown would be 60% Administration and 40% Fire.

4110-142 – Fire Mechanic Wages

Chief Beane recommended increasing the mechanic wages to \$7,500.00

4110-183 – Fire – Overtime Wages

Chief Beane recommended increasing the overtime wages to \$7,000.00

4110-220 – Fire – Operational Expenses

The Board of Commissioners requested the line item be bumped up to \$10,000.00.

Civil Service

Chief Beane informed the Board that the Township is moving forward with the oral interviews.

Mrs. O'Leary questioned when the Township should expect to borrow the money for the Fire Station. Ms. Johnston explained that a financial consultant will be coming to speak with the Board at the 10/29/19 Board of Commissioners Workshop meeting. It is favorable to borrow now with the interest rates as low as they are currently.

Mr. Thompson apologized to the Board for not being present at the last meeting. He stated he would be missing the next meeting scheduled on 10/15/2019. Mr. Thompson explained to the Board he understands this has been a 10 year project to get a fire station. He does not want to waste additional time and stated the interest rates will not get lower. However, with the plan as it was submitted, although a good one, it is not all necessary. He stated the Township has a fiduciary responsibility to balance the cost on what we can afford. This could potentially be an unwise expense. Mr. Thompson expressed support for the first responders, but he could not justify the current plan as executed, especially when there are other spaces available to be utilized. He stated he will do everything in his power to make sure the recreation center is what the Fire Department needs.

Mr. Jason Batz addressed the Board, stating he served on the committee and is also a taxpayer himself. He stated the City of Reading is building two stations, one of which is bigger than Cumru is proposing. He stated he feels this discussion has turned into an us-against-them

mentality. He appreciates the difficult decision that the Board of Commissioners has to make and that is why there are alternatives that can be looked into.

Mrs. O'Leary stated she believes the redesign cost is worth the cost. The Township would still be renovating the Recreation Center and she suggested the Township look into the cost for that renovation. She would like to fix the acoustics and add a smart wall to make it more amiable to the Fire Station. She stated she is trying to reduce the cost of the building project and the Township is already heating and cooling the Recreation Building all year around, the facility has a kitchen and the building is already paid for.

Mr. Miller stated if the Fire Station was constructed back in 2005, the Township would not need to be discussing this matter. The cost of redesign along with the added cost of delay the Township would only be saving \$100,000.00.

Mr. Thompson expressed his frustration and would like everyone to stop looking at the past, as it is not productive.

Chief Beane recommended the Township put money into the existing fitness area as well as revamping the recreation center. The fitness center in the office building is not equipped with a shower facility.

Mrs. Hoover requested Mr. Miller and Mr. Batdorf explain how they got to the \$100,000.00 savings. Mr. Batdorf stated when you factor in time cost and the potential for higher interest rates.

Mrs. O'Leary stated not all the money has to be borrowed at one time. The Township could still borrow \$5 million.

Ms. Johnston explained to the Board that they could borrow part of the money this year and then go out to bid. The Township does need specific guidance to give to the architects. Ms. Johnston stated if the bids are returned over the bid limit of \$10 million, then the Township does not have to accept the Bids.

Mrs. O'Leary stated the Board will talk about this matter again at the October workshop meeting.

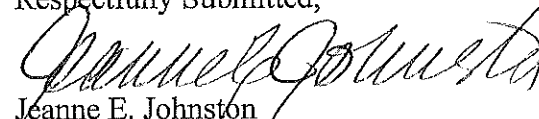
CORRESPONDENCE

A) Reading Eagle – Proof of publication for the 2020 Budget Meetings, dated 9/23/2019

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 9:30 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Jeanne E. Johnston
Assistant Secretary