

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING                      OCTOBER 20, 2022**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth O’Leary at 3:35 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President David J. Batdorf, Sam Kalbach, William B. Miller, and Lisha Rowe. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James A. Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia Wylezik-Pfeiffer.

Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

**2023 BUDGET**

**A.) Fire Fund – policy discussions prior to drafting budget**

**1) Wage Rates**

Ms. Johnston explained that the probationary pay for the candidates attending the Fire Academy is 85% of the base rate defined by the teamster’s contract. The current wage scenario has wage increases after graduation from the academy until 12/31/2022, an increase 1/1/2023 until CDL is obtained, increase after CDL and a final increase after probationary period ends. The current wage scale is below that of other departments. After some discussion, the new proposed scenario would be an increase in probationary pay to \$24.00/hr. from 1/1/2023 until CDL is obtained, \$26.00/hr. for probationary pay with a CDL and \$27.00/hr. after probation ends.

**ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADOPT THE NEW PAY RATES AS OF 1/1/2023: \$24.00/HR. PROBATIONARY PAY UNTIL CDL; \$26.00/HR. PROBATIONARY RATE AFTER CDL, AND \$27.00/HR. AFTER THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD ENDS.**

**2) Apparatus**

- a) long term strategy
- b) proposals to purchase and/or lease

Chief Beane explained that the fleet of fire vehicles was significantly downsized after the fire stations merged. Some apparatus was redundant. He stated that the core of the large apparatus fleet consists of 2 engines and 2 tankers. Since public water is not readily available to much of Cumru Township, the Fire Department needs to carry water to the locations via tankers.

Chief Beane provided a chart showing the current vehicles in service, manufacture year, life expectancy, and purchase price. He also included a possible replacement year and projected price for the vehicles. Chief Beane recommended replacing the engine

from 2008 and the tanker from 1992. Both of these are beyond the expected life span. He presented quotes for both vehicles. Due to the current delays in receiving vehicles, if they are ordered now, the anticipated delivery is 2025. At today's liaison meeting, it was proposed that the tanker be purchased outright and the engine be leased with a turnback option. There was also discussion about the tower vehicle which has no water capacity and requires an engine to run with it. The Board agreed to order the pumper and tanker now.

**ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO PURCHASE THE PIERCE FREIGHTLINER TANKER FOR \$432,332.00.**

**ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ACCEPT THE 10 YEAR/TURN BACK LEASE PROPOSAL FOR THE PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER FOR \$786,861.00.**

3) Fire Station

a) bid alternate list

There was discussion about bidding the Fire Station and if there should be an alternate list. The Board discussed bidding the building design as-is, with the alternate list as recommended by the architect.

Ms. Johnston stated that the amendment to the NPDES permit has been filed and is pending. She reminded the Board that a conference call with the architect should be scheduled to confirm exactly how many amps are needed for the building.

Ms. Johnston requested to wait until October 27, 2022, to address the fire fund budget because corrections will need to be made based on the decisions made at this meeting.

B.) General Fund – Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds budget was discussed. The Board agreed with the proposed budget.

C.) General Fund – Police Department

This will be discussed at the budget meeting on October 27, 2022.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A.) October meetings advertised in the Reading Eagle 09/27/2022

**COMMISSIONERS**

A) Reminders:

- 1) Board of Commissioners meetings for fall 2022
  - 10/27/2022 at 3:30 p.m. – Budget Meeting
  - 11/15/2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
  - 11/29/2022 at 7:00 p.m. – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Meeting

*Note: Deadline for 2023 budget advertisement is 11/30/2022, for adoption on 12/20/2022.*

B.) Executive Session

The executive session began at 5:25 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

The executive session ended at 5:55 p.m. Mr. Setley announced that the Board had discussed a personnel issue which remains pending.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE  
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:56 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston  
Secretary/Manager