

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2023**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth A. O'Leary at 3:32 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President David J. Batdorf, Sam Kalbach, William B. Miller and Lisha Rowe. Also attending were Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer. Solicitor Kelsey Frankowski arrived at 4:11 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

NOTICE:

Public comment will be accepted in person. Please include your first name, last name and address for all comments. Any comments without a name or address will not be considered. To accommodate as many people as possible, we request that each person's comments be limited to 3 minutes. The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 60 minutes. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Commissioners. While public comments will be given due consideration, immediate responses will be done at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

Attendance: Scott Brady

TREASURER

A.) 2020 Bonds Arbitrage

- 1) Authorization to transfer funds to M&T Bank
- 2) Authorization to apply for State and Local Government Demand Deposit Securities

This matter was discussed after the solicitor arrived at the meeting. There will be an annual fee of \$3000 assessed by M&T for this account. Three lawyers were involved in order to figure out this matter because this has not been an issue for approximately 30 years.

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS
VOTE TO:**

- 1) **AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO THE CUSTODIAN AGREEMENT (SUBJECT TO SOLICITOR APPROVAL) WITH M&T ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 29, 2023, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER;**
- 2) **TO AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS TO DIRECT PFMAM TO LIQUIDATE ANY INVESTMENTS OF THE 2020 BONDS PROCEEDS HELD BY PFMAM AND WIRE THE PROCEEDS TO THE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED WITH M&T UNDER THE CUSTODIAN AGREEMENT ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 29, 2023, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER;**
- 3) **TO AUTHORIZE M&T, OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE TOWNSHIP, TO ACQUIRE THE SLUGS WITH THE 2020 BONDS**

PROCEEDS AFTER THE PROCEEDS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE M&T ACCOUNT. PENDING THE ACQUISITION OF THE SLUGS, THE TOWNSHIP INSTRUCTS M&T TO HOLD THE 2020 BONDS PROCEEDS UNINVESTED IN CASH.

2024 BUDGET

A.) General Fund – Police Department

Chief Winchester and Ms. Johnston presented the proposed 2024 budget for the Police Department. Wages were increased by 5% per the collective bargaining agreement. Hiring expenses were increased for testing and hiring in 2024.

Purchase of new optics and holsters will be on the 10/31/2023 agenda.

The line item previously named Animal Rescue League will be renamed Animal Control. Due to the ARL's notice of doubling the Township's cost from \$1.25 per capita to \$2.50 per capita for a contract in 2024, different options such as "Safe Net Sanctuary" are being pursued. The Board concurred. The ARL's cost for a contract in 2025 would be \$7.00 per capita.

A motion to order 2 replacement patrol vehicles from New Holland Ford will be on the BOC 10/31/23 agenda, for payment in 2024. These vehicles would be 2023 models because no 2024 models will be manufactured by Ford. The 2025 models will be redesigned, which means that the upfit equipment will be incompatible.

Shoulder microphones for the PD radios and a ballistic shield are budgeted for 2024.

There was discussion about applying for grants to fund additional license plate readers (LPR) and working with Shillington Borough to consider a mounted camera at Lancaster Avenue and Elkins Avenue.

B.) Fire Fund

Chief Beane and Ms. Johnston presented the proposed 2024 budget for the Fire Department. The wages line item was increased based on the possibility of having a full complement consisting of 3 shift captains, 4 technicians, 3 firefighters for 9 months and 2 people in the HACC Fire Academy for 6 months. The CSC wording about promotions must be clarified.

Hiring expenses, including Academy expenses, were increased to reflect testing and hiring more personnel. The hope is to test in January or February. Muhlenberg Township and Exeter Township are also looking to hire full-time firefighters.

There was discussion about whether or not to increase the fire tax due to the projected balance that would be left in the Fire Fund. The current millage is 1.3 mils. Ms. Johnston will calculate the fund balance based on increases of 0.05 increments for the fire tax.

C.) Fire Capital Fund

There was discussion about replacement vehicles for Brush 42, Tanker 42 (T42) and Engine 42-1 (E42-1). Replacements for T42 and E42-1 are expected to arrive 1Q2025 and November 2024, respectively. It was proposed that Car 42 be replaced with a 4-door F-150 so that the turnout gear can be separated from the passengers in the cab. This is an important consideration because of the Fire Cancer Presumption Act.

There was also discussion about renovating Station 2 to provide sleeping and shower facilities. Chief Beane will get estimates. Currently, there are no such facilities for the

firefighters and the fire station construction will take 2-3 years. This is an important consideration because of the Fire Cancer Presumption Act.

D.) General Fund – Highway

This was not discussed at this meeting.

E.) SMP (Sewer Maintenance Program for on-lot systems) Fund – fee

There was additional discussion about reducing the annual SMP fee. Mr. Kalbach advocated reducing the fee by \$10.00, to an amount of \$55.00 per year, in consideration of the existing fund balance and the current lack of a requirement by the DEP to revise the Act 537 plan. The Board concurred.

DEPARTMENTS

A) Administration – Sheetz escrow release

This will be on the agenda for the BOC 10/31/23 meeting.

COMMISSIONERS

A.) Reminders:

1) Board of Commissioners meetings for October and November 2023:

- 10/31/2022 at 7:00 p.m. – 5th Tuesday Meeting
- 11/21/2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Regular meeting
- **confirm budget meeting 11/2/2023 at 3:30 p.m.**

The Board confirmed the budget meeting for 11/02/23 at 3:30 p.m.

2) Zoning Hearing Board Regular Meeting – November 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

3) Planning Commission – November 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:55 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary