

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth A. O’Leary at 3:34 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 was excused.

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: Rusty Hoover

2024 BUDGET

Ms. Johnston provided copies of the assessment appeal report and the 2024 municipality summary that the Township received today from Berks County. These reports show the decrease in revenue for municipalities due to recent reassessments. The municipality summary is new this year so there is no comparison report from previous years.

A.) General Fund – Highway

Wages were increased to reflect the anticipated 5% increase and the expectation of hiring someone to fill the vacancy in the highway department. Overtime wages are largely dictated by winter weather. Storm sewer was increased for specific projects. Line painting was increased due to an anticipated increase in cost. The Township participates in a joint municipal contract for this service. Mr. McNichols requested that the Board consider increasing the budget for the new Public Works vehicle to not exceed \$48,000, based on a quote received. The Board agreed.

B.) Liquid Fuels

Ms. Johnston reviewed a spreadsheet for possible roadwork projects. The biggest challenge is the long country roads in the Township. Most of these roads have overhanging foliage that blocks sunlight and contributes to the weathering of the roads.

There was a discussion about issues that are affecting the liquid fuels budget. The Board had been trying to obtain a low-interest PIB loan to help finance some of the roadwork projects. The interest on the PIB loans continues to increase and is currently approximately 3.75%. The

payments for the PIB loan would be from liquid fuels money. It was suggested that the Public Works paving crew could repair some roads, instead of outside contractors, to help reduce the costs and upgrade more roads. Technically proficient patching by the Township's experienced crew instead of full-depth reconstruction could significantly reduce costs. The downside is that patching does not last as long as full-depth reconstruction. The upside is that it is a fraction of the cost. Doing the roadwork in sections could also help reduce costs.

A Public Works liaison meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss these ideas and prepare a liquid fuels budget accordingly.

C.) General Fund - Administration

The contracted services line was increased to include codification of the ordinances.

The salary amount for the Business/ Personnel Administrator replacement position needs to be determined. There was discussion about whether this should be 2 positions in the future.

There was discussion about the contribution to Zoning Board line item. Currently, Zoning Hearing Board members are given a \$25/year contribution. The Board agreed that the Zoning Hearing Board members should be given \$25 per meeting, based on attendance, starting in 2024.

D.) General Fund – Parks and Recreation

This was not discussed.

E.) Capital Fund

This fund will be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Miller reported that he, Mr. Kalbach, and Mrs. Wylezik-Pfeiffer had attended the Mifflin Community Library 25th Anniversary Celebration on October 24, 2023, to represent Cumru Township. The library staff is very appreciative of the continued support from Cumru Township.

COMMISSIONERS

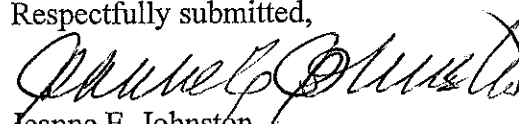
A.) Reminders:

- 1) Board of Commissioners meetings for November 2023:
 - 11/21/2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular meeting
- 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 MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary