

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President William B. Miller at 7:00 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President Ruth A. O'Leary, David J. Batdorf, Chip Bilger, and Sam Kalbach. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, and Manager Jeanne E. Johnston.

Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Meeting advertised in the Reading Eagle on 11/22/2020

**2021 BUDGET**

Ms. Johnston presented a draft 2021 budget, with changes as previously established by the Board, and information to allow resolution of the refuse fund budget. One of the changes was the incorporation of capital lease/purchases instead of cash purchases, which in turn increased the projected general fund carry over.

Mr. Bilger expressed concern about a \$1.2 million deficit budget for 2021. Ms. Johnston noted that the prior year had a budget surplus, which was being used for 2021. The current year, under the reduced COVID-19 budget, was expected to have a better end of year result than the original 2020 budget.

Mr. Bilger asked about the high capital outlays in 2017 and 2018. Ms. Johnston explained that the sudden, required removal of the Poplar Neck Br. over Norfolk Southern at the end of 2016 had a cascade effect that required the improvement of the Poplar Neck Br. over the Schuylkill River, and other improvements, to provide access to the Poplar Neck area. Those projects cost approx. \$1 million. The Township also reconstructed Ledgerock Rd., another \$1 million project. Those were unusually high cost capital years and should not be looked at as the norm.

Mr. Bilger stated a desire for a 5 year budget. He also requested amounts attached to capital equipment projections. Mr. McNichols and Ms. Johnston noted that prior attempts to present long term budgets to previous Boards were rejected. The Board stated it would consider looking at a 3 year budget in the future.

**REFUSE FUND**

Mr. Setley presented results of an RFQ for landfill space. New Morgan landfill quoted less than the other landfills by a significant margin. It also quoted for 10 years, whereas the Western Berks Landfill only quoted for 5 years. Even paying the added \$78,000 cost for the hauler to take waste to New Morgan, allowed under the current hauling contract, awarding the landfill contract to New Morgan is more cost effective.

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AWARDING THE QUOTE FOR LANDFILL TIPPING FEES TO NEW MORGAN / NEW REPUBLIC FOR A 10 YEAR CONTRACT.**

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF \$78,000 IN THE HAULING CONTRACT WITH EAGLE DISPOSAL.**

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that Eagle Disposal again requested that the Board approve the use of toters. Eagle's representative stated that they would allow non-toter pickup in Flying Hills, but nowhere else. If bags were put out instead of a toter, the bags would not be picked up. Mr. Bilger stated the toter issue should be used to negotiate a future price with Eagle.

Mr. Kalbach stated his objection to requiring the use of toters at all, especially for less able-bodied persons, because of the numerous sloped properties in the Township. He said he would not be able to haul them back and forth for his own property and his neighbors have similar issues. He expressed concern that many residents would leave their toter closer to the road, so they wouldn't have to haul it, and would simply put bags in the toter on trash day. Toters could become a hazard if they roll onto roads.

Mrs. O'Leary asked for more information about toters. Ms. Johnston explained that the trash toters are 96 gallons (3 times the size of a regular garbage can) and the recycling toters are 64 gallons (2 times the size of a regular garbage can). Mr. McNichols informed the Board that the trash toter weighs 35 lb empty. The Board asked public works to bring in sample toters to a future Board meeting.

Since the Township had received the landfill and hauling costs, Ms. Johnston presented a refuse fund budget. The minimum increase necessary to maintain the fund was 1.2%, or \$213/year/2+ adults and \$192/year/1 adult. Current rates were \$210 and \$190, respectively.

Mr. Bilger suggested \$225/year/2+ adults. Mrs. O'Leary suggested that was unnecessarily high. The Board discussed several different rates, ultimately deciding upon \$220/year/2+ adults and \$198/year/1 adult. Cumru Township's refuse fee would remain in the lower tier relative to other municipalities' refuse fees.

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. BILGER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE 2021 BUDGET AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, WITH A CHANGE IN THE REFUSE FEE TO \$220/YEAR/2+ ADULTS AND \$198/YEAR/1 ADULT, NO CHANGE IN THE SMP FEE, A 5% INCREASE IN THE SEWER RATE, AND NO CHANGE IN REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGES.**

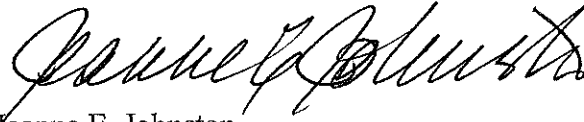
### **COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

Mr. Bilger stated concern for public access to the building during the COVID-19 emergency. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that numerous restrictions have remained in place since the lockdown as the emergency has continued. Mr. Bilger urged the Board to adopt public ZOOM meetings.

Mr. Bilger asked for the Township to look into UV protection on the HVAC system. Mr. McNichols informed the Board that portable UV equipment was arriving next week. The idea of central UV equipment would be evaluated, but might not be possible for this building.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE**  
**ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 8:38 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston  
Assistant Secretary