

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 30, 2014**

The budget meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Tony J. Sacco at 6:15 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Treasurer Ruth O'Leary, Sheri Hoover, and Lorri K. Swan. Vice President Edward L. Gottschall was absent with prior notification to the Board. Also attending were Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police Jed Habecker, Fire Chief Scott R. Brady, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, and Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston.

Pledge to the Flag.

2015 BUDGET

Highway Department - General Fund

The Board reviewed the highway department budget.

A new line item is proposed in order to account for equipment related to storm sewer installation and maintenance. According to the PaDEP, street sweeping is the most desirable and cost effective BMP for MS4 permitting. It is also one of the most popular services that the Township provides. The sweeper hopper is worn to a point that it can no longer be welded. It is proposed to replace the hopper at a cost of \$16,000.00. This is the most cost effective alternative for keeping the machine in operation. A new hopper must be ordered in December 2014 in order to have the street sweeper repaired in time for April 2015. It is anticipated that this will provide 5 more years of life to the machine. The cost of a new street sweeper should be incorporated into the long term capital plan.

Several years ago, the Township embarked on a program of comprehensive long line painting every other year. This level of line painting is due in 2015 and was incorporated into the 2015 budget at a cost of \$32,000.

The guiderail line item was increased due to the high cost of guiderail. The traditional allocation of \$4,000 is not enough to repair a significant amount of guiderail. There are several needed repairs already identified.

It is proposed to purchase a new tire machine and a conduit bender. These proposed purchases have been reviewed by the liaisons. A new tire machine is considered a safety measure and will allow the mechanics to service more vehicles. The conduit bender will facilitate streetlight repairs in Flying Hills. These items are reflected in the shop tools line item.

The construction engineering line item was exceeded in 2014 partly because the Board authorized preliminary engineering for Gougliersville Rd. phases 3 and 4. Looking forward, the Gougliersville Rd. project, in general, has required a significant amount of engineering and inspection for grading issues, soft spots, easements, etc. Engineering costs for other unexpected road issues, such as the Flying Hills Dr. irrigation line damage, are expensed with this line item. Engineering for the 2015 TAP grant will also be paid out of this line item. For these reasons, it is proposed to increase this line item in 2015 to \$100,000.

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that, when capital is discussed, staff requested discussion of a new roller. There are significant problems getting parts for the current roller, which is over 30 years old,

Refuse Fund

The wages line item went over budget in 2013 due to construction of the yard waste site. In 2014, it has been budgeted to expense leaf picking wages out of the refuse fund. This line item is increased for 2015 in anticipation of staffing the yard waste site.

The equipment line item would be used for equipment purchases to be reimbursed by the recycling grant:

- \$45,676.00 for 35% of a dump truck purchase.
- \$52,000.00 for two leaf vacuums and leaf boxes.
- \$55,994.00 for a chipper.

The refuse fund would also pay for 1/3 of vehicle 61, \$10,000 (see minutes of 10/28/2014).

Ms. Johnston recommended that the refuse fee remain the same for 2015. The Township's internal policy for many years has been to have a refuse fund reserve of 6 months of expenses. Several years ago, the fund had well in excess of this amount. It was anticipated that the fund would run a deficit in 2014 and 2015, in order to keep the refuse fee more affordable for property owners and absorb some of the funds in excess of the reserve amount. The refuse fee will probably have to increase in 2016.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:50 p.m. – The Board of Commissioners went into executive session to discuss 2 personnel issues and a labor matter.

8:23 p.m. – Mr. Sacco stated that the Board of Commissioners discussed 2 personnel issues and a labor issue.

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING MANAGEMENT TO SEND A WRITTEN NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BERKS COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMINATION PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH BERKS COUNTY ENACTED BY ORDINANCE 675.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary