

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING                      NOVEMBER 9, 2015**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Tony J. Sacco at 6:00 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Sheri Hoover, Lorri K. Swan, and Ruth O'Leary. The Park and Recreation Board also attended: Chairperson Veronica Johnston, Vice Chairperson David Stanislawczyk, Nicholas Szeredai, Jill Kemp, John Warren, and Roger Raybuck. Vice President Edward L. Gottschall and John Furdyna were absent with prior notification to the Board. Also attending were Interim Police Chief Ronald Smeal, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Recreation Director Samson Gausch, Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, and Secretary Latoya Procopio.

**PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

**COMMISSIONERS**

A) Executive Session

6:01 p.m. – The Board of Commissioners went into executive session to discuss real estate.

6:32 p.m. – Mr. Sacco stated that the Board of Commissioners discussed real estate.

**2016 BUDGET**

1) Parks and Recreation

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the 2016 Parks and Recreation budget. The Board increased the maintenance wages line item to \$4,000, based on the 2015 history for this line item. Mrs. Hoover pointed out that medicare and social security costs would have to be adjusted proportionately.

Ms. Johnston presented a 10 year plan for parks and recreation, based on a suggestion by Mr. Gausch. The plan proposed establishing an escrow of \$10,000 each year to replace the play structures every 3-4 years. The recommended lifespan of a play structure is 15 years and the Montrose Manor structure is already at that threshold. The cost for installation would be incurred out of the contracted services line item in the year a play structure is replaced. It is known from the 2015 installation of the Pennwyn Playground equipment that installation will exceed \$10,000. The Pennwyn equipment recently installed is smaller than the original structure, was purchased at a substantial discount, and the Township had an escrow available for the purchase. Even at \$10,000 a year for 3 years, the Montrose equipment would also have to be downsized and discounted. Ms. Johnston noted that the 10 year plan does not project funding for repaving any courts as most of them are in good shape and repaving the Pennwyn court would contradict a storm water grant.

Mr. Sacco asked what happened to the playground in the Thomas Gardens development. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the development's management company received zoning relief from the Zoning Hearing Board several years ago to remove all active recreation and the Board of Commissioners at that time did not appeal the zoning decision. Mr. Warren, a resident of Thomas Gardens, stated that he believes the absence of a playground area violates state law.

Mr. Sacco proposed that Mr. Gausch, as a certified playground inspector, should inspect play equipment that is not owned by the Township, but is potentially accessible to the public. As an example, he cited the Flying Hills play equipment. The Township could charge a fee.

Mrs. Swan, a resident of Flying Hills, stated that that play equipment is for Flying Hills residents and their guests; it is not meant for the general public. Mr. Stanislawczyk, a resident of Ashley Run, indicated that the same circumstance exists for the play equipment owned by their homeowners association. Ms. Johnston expressed concern for the liability that the Township would take on, if a Township employee inspected equipment not owned by the Township. She also asked how such inspections could be limited to HOA equipment and not extended to equipment owned by individual property owners. Certainly, a new ordinance would be required. The Board agreed that management should inquire with the Solicitor and liability insurance agent on this matter.

## 2) Police

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the police budget. Based on information on Police Chief salaries in nearby large municipalities, the Board increased the Chief's salary line item to \$110,000. The Board acknowledged that the Chief selection is currently under discussion. The line item for hiring expenses was increased to \$10,000. The Board stated that the new Chief of Police will be responsible for determining the Capital for the police budget, including police cars.

Various other line item changes were made:

- The line item for heart and lung benefit was decreased to \$0.
- Line item 4100-314 reflects the retainer for the Civil Service Solicitor. The Board instructed Ms. Johnston to contact his office and have the service changed to time/materials.
- Traffic lights were moved to public works.
- Changes were made in how line items reflect County radio service and police car computers (MCTs) from the County.
- Calibration will be reflected in equipment maintenance.
- Vehicle maintenance will be reflected in its own line item.
- The line item for the fire police uniforms was increased to \$2,500.

Chief Smeal suggested that the Board add line items to streamline any future study of consolidation, including the police department's share of the utilities that are being used for the municipal buildings. The Board agreed. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the police department utilizes 35% of the square footage of the main office building.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A) Meeting Advertised in the Reading Eagle 10/25/2015

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:23 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Latoya Procopio  
Secretary