

WORKSHOP MEETING

Budget Workshop Synopsis

The Franklin Township Committee held a “ZOOM” Budget Workshop Meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. Mayor Mike Ferri opened the meeting in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act” Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 having been duly advertised and a copy posted in the office of the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Butler-Yes, DeAngelis-No, Herzer-Yes, Toretta-Yes; Ferri-Yes. (4) Present; (1) Absent

Present were: Anthony Ardito, Municipal Auditor, Kathleen Reinalda, CFO, Ron Read, Road Foreman, Jim Onembo, Zoning Officer, Jan Verkade, Fire Chief, Dave Brown Deputy Fire Chief, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Ferri, Committeeperson Butler, and CFO Reinalda sat down to review and compile the department and employee wish lists, as well as Professional Services for 2021, prior to this evening’s discussions. Mayor and Committee discussed the 2021 proposed budget worksheet provided by Auditor Ardito. At this time, as presented, it would be approximately a \$66 increase to the average taxpayer, 2.2 cents. DPW all three salaries have been included, Litigation and additional hydrants at \$51.57 per hydrant per month, Ambulance Lease, Additional Court Costs and Millbrook Road repair has not been factored in. No salary increases.

Fire Department/EMS

Chief Verkade and Deputy Chief Brown attended this evening. Chief Verkade advised for the Fire Department, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), turn out gear for interior people, Annual mandatory testing P-OSHA and NFPA, Service and Repairs on trucks and equipment, pumps, replace some fire hose and nozzles, and EMT Training for firemen. On the EMS, rig repairs, equipment repair as well as medical supplies and in need of a new stair chair. A total request for Fire \$62,160 and EMS \$24,400. Some of the equipment expense can come out of Capital, relieving use from their budget line item. Foreman Read advised that the Morris County Co-Op has turn out gear available, might be an option to reduce cost. After a discussion, committee’s consensus to look further into how to handle the expense of equipment without reducing the Fire/EMS Operating line items and are there any Grants available?

We need to review our old tax foreclosures and delinquent taxes, this could give us some additional wiggle room in the budget.

IT forwarded a list of items, need to place in order of importance for this year and others that can wait until future budgets.

CFO advised we can digest all that has been discussed this evening and to reach out to her with any ideas you might have to that might reduce some line items and the potential unforeseeable tax increase.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer to open to the public at 7:05 pm.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Ferri to close public session at 7:12 pm.

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Bonnie Butler, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 7:12 pm. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk