

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 7, 2022
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Budget Workshop Meeting

The Budget Workshop Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Martin C. McDaniel at the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Roll Call: Commissioners present were Martin C. McDaniel, Carolyn Verszyla, Rody Nash, Dan Peluso, and John Stephansky. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager

Brian Jameson, Chief

Charlie Frederick, Resident

Donna Adipietro, resident

Stacy Ford, Resident

Justin Miller, Resident

Emily Bennett, Resident

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident Charlie Frederick said at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding employee wages and police wages. There was a brief discussion about whether the one-year-old police contract should be opened and if the officers would be interested.

Resident Justin Miller stated that if the Board does not entertain a contract with other fire services for this municipality, then shame on them. Mr. Nash asked exactly what he meant by that. He stated that the agenda for tonight's meeting had the Fair Oaks Fire Department Agreement on it for discussion, and he feels we should be looking for fire department contracts elsewhere as it could save money.

Resident Stacy Ford asked if the Board is reviewing the fire department agreement tonight. Mr. McDaniel stated yes. Ms. Ford said that there is a 1984 agreement on file and if the Board hasn't looked at it, she suggested they do. Mr. McDaniel asked Ms. Ford if she had a copy of the agreement she referred to, and that they asked her at a previous meeting to submit her comments and they have yet to receive them. Ms. Ford stated that she will not give the Board her information so they can take responsibility for what she has worked on. Mr. McDaniel stated he was unaware of the 1984 agreement. Ms. Rengers said that Mark Brooks sent both agreements to the Board in his email. Ms. Ford stated that this agreement is on file with the Township. Article 1 states: to always provide fire protection. She asked if the Board has the current roster and if the department can always provide fire protection. She stated that in the March meeting it was stated that during the Township's work hours, Township employees who are firefighters may respond to calls. In article 2 the township fire chief should maintain complete records of all emergency operations. In March, April, and May the department provided the calls and who responded. In June, July, and August there is no report of respondents. In September there was no report provided. She stated these are requirements. She is concerned about the safety and well-being of our residents and the number of trained firefighters responding to calls, and she felt the new agreement is the bare minimum. The discussion continued.

Resident Emily Bennett explained there are requirements to be an active firefighter and stated that current active firefighters should have that documentation. She agreed with Mr. Miller that we could get better protection elsewhere and there are options. Like joining another department such as Ambridge, Leetsdale, and Sewickley.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Department Agreement: Mr. Stephansky stated there has been a long discussion regarding the future of the fire department. Mr. Brooks has stated they are trying to recruit new members, but we should consider a regional fire department. They were approached by Ambridge and Leetsdale in previous years. The real issue is not that we do not want to integrate with other departments, but do they want to integrate with ours? Mr. Stephansky suggested having Mark Brooks attend a meeting so that he can explain the types of training they do and what their

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 7, 2022
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Budget Workshop Meeting

requirements are. The discussion continued and this will be sent to the solicitor for review and discussion at the next meeting.

2023 Proposed Budget Discussion: Mr. Stephansky started the conversation with legal services:

- The Solicitor for the Zoning Board should be under contracted legal services.
- 409.373 Building Maintenance is the air conditioning unit replacement for 198 Ambridge Ave.
- Ms. Verszyla would like Manager to be added next to the word "bonds."
- Delete the line for rent of the storage unit.
- Software support doubled due to the upgrade by Up and Running Computers.
- Ms. Verszyla would like the office telephone to be reviewed, as she feels it's outdated. She asked Ms. Rengers to follow up with Bob Patterson from Up and Running Computers.
- Ms. Verszyla would like to know if any other board members considered her suggestion of ¼ mil in each department's capital reserve, instead of having one capital reserve.
- 488 will be deleted.
- Ms. Verszyla asked if the police salaries were based on the contract. Chief Jameson confirmed they were and there was some discussion regarding the contract.
- Ms. Verszyla discussed salaries and taking out a TAN loan. Mr. Stephansky agreed. Mr. McDaniel stated Ms. Rengers had already reached out to him regarding this. A TAN loan will be added in for \$150,000.
- A wage addendum to the police contract was suggested.
- Ms. Verszyla and Mr. Nash would like to meet with Chief Jameson regarding next year's contract.
- 414.15: \$10,000 will be added to the police budget for holiday time. The Bookminders accountant had not been coding that correctly but has corrected it.
- Mr. McDaniel would like to see existing wages in the budget, and then salary increases will be discussed, and they will be corrected on the budget before the December meeting.
- The Dodge Durango police car loan will be paid off in May. The Ford police car has one more year of payments.
- Ms. Rengers stated that because we are a first-class township, we are required to have a 20-day viewing of the 2023 Budget and it must be adopted by December 31, 2022.
- The next Budget Meeting is on November 10, 2022, starting at 5 pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident Charlie Frederick stated that he is very against opening the police contract, but he also feels it is an inadequate contract. Mr. Stephansky stated that if this conversation is going to happen it needs to happen quickly if it's going on this budget. Chief Jameson stated that if it's just a raise, then an addendum would be the best way to do that.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Peluso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Nash, with all in favor.

TOWNSHIP OF LEET

/s/Betsy Rengers
BETSY RENGERS, MANAGER

/s/Martin C. McDaniel
MARTIN C. MCDANIEL, PRESIDENT

11/14/2022
Date