

February 17, 2018

The special meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Mayor Hertzberg who issued the formal statement in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.

Roll call was taken and present were Mayor Hertzberg, Deputy Mayor Quinn, Councilman Murphy, Councilman Gibbs, Councilwoman Whilesmith, Chief Financial Officer Sam Rome, Township Manager William Close and Township Clerk Kate Chambers.

Salute of the Flag:

Mayor Hertzberg led the assembly in a salute to the flag.

Budget Discussion:

Mr. Close stated that Chief Spidaletto was present to go over the police department budget. Discussions centered on hiring two additional police officers to bring the total amount of officers to 33. Mr. Close stated that three positions had recently been filled. Discussions centered on hiring a school resource officer in conjunction with the schools. Mr. Close stated that he had a meeting scheduled with the Chief and Mr. Rossi, the school superintendent.

Chief Spidaletto addressed Council and stated that there were two things in his budget that he felt were very important and that included training and providing officers with the tools necessary to do their job. He stated that the school resource officer was a very important position not only for security purposes but also for the relationships that the officer would bring throughout the schools. The Chief also spoke regarding his department's technology needs and maintenance contracts. Chief Spidaletto also discussed his request for a new software system that would back up the department's various technology systems.

Discussions centered on drones and training. Chief Spidaletto stated that he intended to have more discussions with Mr. Close on that matter. He stated further that drones have been purchased and utilized throughout the state and different county agencies.

Mr. Close stated that should the Township purchase drones, there would need to be an ordinance adopted regulating their use.

Chief Spidaletto discussed an app that is available that would enable a school student to anonymously report suspicious activity. He stated that the County had received a grant recently with regards to mapping out all of the schools within the county that would also provide a floor plan for each level of a school, and eventually significant sized buildings, that would allow law enforcement to geographically pinpoint certain locations that would need to be responded to.

Deputy Mayor Quinn remarked that overtime costs had been reduced by half. She commended the Township Manager and Chief Spidaletto for controlling those costs. She stated further that her concerns regarding the budget were in the area of personnel. Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that she could foresee the school resource officer position expanding in the future and asked if that would leave the department with a deficit of manpower for the upcoming year.

Chief Spidaletto stated that he would like to have an additional person hired along with the addition of a resource officer. He stated he would then be able to cover the township more appropriately based on its population and size, but also allows him to keep the overtime costs as low as possible. Discussions centered on training and scheduling new officers to attend the academy.

Discussions centered on personnel and the hiring of a part time clerical person in anticipation of the retirement of an existing clerk within the next year or two. Discussions also centered on hiring a full time dispatcher to replace an employee who recently retired. Mr. Close stated that the Township had recently lost the Byram Township's dispatching contract but with the decrease in salary of the retired worker, the Township was able to balance out the dispatching costs. Chief Spidaletto stated that the Township would be able to sufficiently handle the call volume.

Discussions centered on active shooter training for the staff and a threat assessment of the municipal building. Chief Spidaletto stated that he had reached out to a company who specializes in active shooter training and they agreed to provide training to the staff. He stated that he had invited the Board of Education to attend as well and information would be provided to the superintendent. The Chief also stated that he was planning to give some officers tactical training as well.

Deputy Mayor Quinn thanked Chief Spidaletto for all of the proactive measures he was taking to help keep the community safe.

Discussions centered on a proposed five year capital plan. Mr. Close listed a proposed community center project to be located in Station Park, along with field upgrades at Ungerman Field. Discussions also centered on installing two more lights poles at White Lake in order to maximize the use of the fields.

Mr. Close stated that the Township would be making improvements to some existing fencing in Station Park and restriping fields along with other improvements in the park. He also discussed erecting either a wooden sign or a VMB on Rt. 517 before the entrance to the park. Mr. Close also discussed placing a VMB sign on an easement off Town Center Drive.

Discussions centered on the upgrade of the existing maintenance building in Station Park, along with signage for the building.

Mr. Close discussed the Fisher Building in Ungerman Park and the proposed upgrades for the building. Council expressed their concerns that the building is now being used as a storage facility rather than its original intent.

Discussions centered on the proposed construction of a pavilion near the beach area at White Lake, along with the construction of bathrooms and a small commercial kitchen. After further discussions, there was consensus to put money into the budget to start construction this year because it would be beneficial for families utilizing the lake.

Mr. Rome stated that the Township would pay off the turf field this year and he would propose a bond ordinance for the White Lake project and it could be paid off within a two year period.

Mr. Close stated that there was \$150,000 in the budget to install the additional lights at White Lake.

Discussions centered on installing fitness apparatus and expanding the walking path at White Lake.

Discussions centered on meeting with the owner of the adjacent piece of property to try to come to an agreement regarding sale of the property to the Township.

Discussions centered on a dumpster enclosure along with additional landscaping around Town Hall. Mr. Close also discussed installing a visual message board at Town Hall. He stated further that there was money in the budget for curb replacement.

Discussions centered on converting the old skate park into a basketball facility. Mr. Close stated also that he felt cameras would need to be installed as well. Discussions also centered on installing an ice skating facility. Mr. Close stated that he would research a company that provides a makeshift rink, rents skates and provides liability insurance. He stated that Council could make a decision as to whether or not they would want to go forward.

Discussions centered on the DPW capital budget. Mr. Close stated that there was money for a wing plow truck with a spreader, an F350 utility truck and other various equipment. Mr. Close stated also that there was money for the installation of guardrails, signage and four crosswalks in high traffic areas.

Discussions centered on a replacement phone system for the DPW, Library and Town Hall. Mr. Close stated that the cost would be between \$150,000 to \$190,000.

Discussions centered on replacing the roof at Town Hall with metal roofing. Mr. Close stated that a metal roof does not have the same problems with leaking as the current asphalt roofing and has a longer life. He stated also that the solar panels could be reinstalled on a metal roof and not have any problems with leakage.

Discussions centered on up grading the locker rooms in the Police Department and installing fencing around the radio tower.

Deputy Mayor Quinn stated that she would like pictures hanging in town hall that represented a theme rather than just random paintings. She stated that the walls needed to be repainted both on the first and second floors. Mr. Close stated that he also wanted to have lighting installed on the columns in the front of the municipal building. Mr. Close stated also that there was money allocated in the budget for banners and decorations.

Discussions centered on hiring an additional part-time clerical person to work with the Township Engineer and the Construction Department. Mr. Close stated also that the Recreation Director would not be reporting to Mr. Powell and that would free up more of Mr. Powell's time to concentrate on other things. Mr. Close stated that Council would need to make a decision as to whether a planner/assistant engineer should be hired to work on the GIS system or whether the position should be outsourced.

Council was in agreement to look over the capital budget items and ask the Township Engineer to come to a future Council meeting for further discussions.

Open to the Public:

No one wished to be heard and this portion was closed.

Adjournment:

No one else wished to be heard and no further business was brought up, motion was made by Councilman Gibbs, seconded by Mayor Hertzberg and unanimously carried to adjourn at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kate Chambers, RMC

Municipal Clerk

