

February 28, 2018

The special meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.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, Councilman Murphy, Councilman Gibbs, Chief Financial Officer Sam Rome, Township Manager William Close and Township Clerk Kate Chambers. Deputy Mayor Quinn arrived at 5:05 p.m. and Councilwoman Whilesmith arrived at 5:19 p.m.

Salute of the Flag:

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

Budget Discussion:

Mr. Close stated that Jim Zepp and Eric Powell were present to go over the DPW and Engineering budgets.

Discussions centered on road repair and pot hole remediation. Mr. Zepp stated that his crew have been doing sections of West Mountain Road.

Mr. Close stated that the DPW O&E portion of the budget was up due to the asphalt work that the department does.

Mr. Zepp stated that he had never exceeded the budget, but due to the nature of his department he also needed to have funds built into the budget in the event of unforeseen circumstances. He stated further that if the funds allocated in his budget were not needed, those funds would not be spent and would come back to the Town.

Discussions centered on the salaries and wages portion of the budget. Mr. Zepp stated that there was an increase due to overtime costs. He stated that his staff was minimal and they worked almost every weekend in order to stay ahead of the road preparation work. He stated that work was necessary in order to prepare for the microsurfacing work that needed to be done on the roadways.

Discussions centered on hiring more workers for the DPW. Mr. Close stated that he had hired four former seasonal workers to fill full-time positions, plus would be hiring more seasonal workers. He stated that the performance of the seasonal employees would determine whether or not they might be offered full time employment. Mr. Zepp spoke regarding cross training between the DPW and the Parks Department workers. Mr. Zepp stated that the two departments work together and assist each other on different projects.

Discussions centered on pieces of equipment scheduled to be purchased this year that included two wing plow trucks. Mr. Zepp stated that a standard single axle dump truck would be ordered April and delivered in October with the second truck being ordered in October to be delivered the following year. He stated these trucks would be replacing current ones that are in the fleet that are old and need to be taken out of service. He stated that the trucks are being serviced in house and spoke about the benefit of having all of the trucks be the same brand. Discussions also centered on guardrail and signage work. Mr. Close stated that he would like to have more decorative street signs in town. Mr. Close indicated also that he wanted to update the Welcome to Sparta signs.

Mr. Powell addressed Council regarding road improvement funding. He stated that he estimated the cost to be \$829,000. He stated that the Township had done a lot of micro-surfacing over the past two years in the neighborhood developments that had curbing. He stated that the micro-surfacing was holding up very well and the residents seemed to be happy with it. Mr. Powell stated that this year the town might do more overlay on the roads, especially West Mountain Road from Rt. 517 past the high school, Seneca Lake Trail, Sawmill Road and Pinkneyville Road.

Mr. Powell stated that they use the Township website, Honeywell, VMB and the Township's and Police Department's Facebook page as a communication means to notify the public of roadwork being conducted in their neighborhoods.

Council recessed at 5:58 p.m.

Council reconvened into public session at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Close stated that he might replace the senior van. Mr. Close also spoke regarding the need for a full time driver considering the small group of seniors who utilize the van. He stated that it would be more cost efficient to use a part-time driver and cut back on the amount of days that the van operates. Discussions centered also on contracting the service out using a private company and the possibility of partnering with the County's bus service. Discussions also centered on a joint transportation venture with Knoll Heights and the purchase of a van.

Discussions centered on Station Park improvements namely repairs to the pedestrian bridge. Council indicated that they wanted that project to be a priority.

Councilman Murphy indicated that he would like an increase of \$1,500 to the Cultural Affairs Committee. Council discussed the need for the committee to do fundraising. Mr. Close stated that the committee had already received \$1,500 from the trust account based on no more than three events to be held indoors. Mr. Close stated that he had met with Mr. Hespelt and he had not mentioned needing more funds for the Committee.

Discussions centered on the purchase of an F250 for the first aid squad. After further discussion, Council agreed to put \$25,000 toward the purchase of a vehicle. Regarding a question by Councilman Murphy concerning the LOSAP program, Mr. Rome stated that he was continuing to put money into the account. He stated that whatever was not spent from the account would go into surplus.

Discussions centered on the Water Department. Mr. Close stated that Mr. Spaldi was short of personnel. He stated that one person had been hired to replace an employee who had left and he was looking to hire an additional person. Mr. Close stated that office coverage was not a priority and that Mr. Spaldi needed field workers.

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 Deputy Mayor Quinn, seconded by Councilman Murphy and unanimously carried to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kate Chambers, RMC

Municipal Clerk

