

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
November 15, 2013

Minutes of Special Meeting of Township Council Held on Friday, November 15, 2013 at 5:00 PM in the Township Building, 27 N. Pennell Road

Present: M. Amoroso, L. Bradshaw, R. Carlson, N. Shropshire
B. Clark

1. Chairperson Ms. Bradshaw opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Comments from the Public

Chris Garriga, 416 Meadowhurst Lane, explained that he previously served as President of the High Meadow Civic Association and currently manages the High Meadow website and facebook. He introduced two High Meadow residents who were also present-- Kristin Puleo, 26 Meadowbrook Lane, and Cathleen Albertson, 804 Ridley Creek Drive.

Mr. Garriga stated that he did not see any notice of the special meeting on November 21st for the presentation on the Local Services Tax (LST), and asked if the ordinance authorizing enactment of the tax had been advertised.

Mr. Clark stated that the ordinance was advertised three times in the Delaware County Daily Times, and the third notice was published one week prior to the November 21st meeting. The Local Services Tax will be a flat tax of \$42 per year to be paid by employees who work in Middletown Township and have an annual income of more than \$12,000. He added that the ordinance enacting the LST will be considered for adoption at the November 25th Council meeting.

Mr. Clark went on to say that traffic congestion at the Rt. 1/Rt. 452 intersection is a major issue for the Township, and it is not anticipated that Middletown will receive any transportation funding at the state level in the near future. The LST is an option for earning additional revenue, and it is estimated that the tax will generate \$350,000-\$400,000 per year. He explained that the law requires that 25% of the money collected from the LST must be designated for funding emergency services provided by the first responders and volunteer fire fighters, and the balance will be used toward traffic improvements at the Rt. 1/Rt. 452 intersection.

3. New Business

A. Public Presentation of the Draft Proposed Budget for 21014

Ms. Bradshaw explained that the Home Rule Charter requires that the draft operating budget for the following fiscal year must be presented at a public meeting at least 45 days prior to the end of the year.

Mr. Clark stated that Finance Committee and Council members began review of the Draft 2014 Budget in October. He noted that a complete copy of the Draft 2014 Budget is available for review at the Township Building and the Middletown Library. Copies of the 2014 Budget Summary are available on the table at the rear of the meeting room and can also be viewed on the Township website.

Mr. Clark went on to say that the 2014 Operating Budget totals \$4,077,609, and no increase is contemplated in the 1.6 mills property tax. He pointed out that the draft budget is based on existing conditions and does not include anticipated revenue from the Local Services Tax. Assuming the LST ordinance is adopted, the tax will become effective January 1, 2014 and the budget figures will be updated.

Mr. Clark stated that the purpose of tonight's special meeting is to formally present the 2014 Draft Operating Budget. Review of the budget will continue on November 25th at 5:45 PM and at the regular monthly Committee meeting on December 2nd at 5:45 PM. Ms. Bradshaw pointed out that the Draft 2014 Budget will be considered for adoption at the December 9th Council meeting.

William Evans, 5 Fox Road, asked how employee health benefits are handled in the budget. Mr. Clark explained that several years ago the auditors recommended that the cost of health insurance should be apportioned among three main budgets---the Manager's office, the Public Works Department, and the Parks & Recreation Department. The health benefits for the four employees in the Manager's office and the three employees in the Finance Department are included in the Manager's budget. The eight employees in the Public Works Department, the Code Enforcement staff and Art Rothe are covered in the Public Works budget, and the two employees in the Parks and Recreation Department come under the P&R budget. He noted that although the volunteer fire fighters are not Township employees, the law requires that the Township must pay for their Workers Compensation insurance, and that is shown as a separate line item.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Doerfler
Carolyn Doerfler, Recorder