

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
Budget Workshop 8 AM September 22, 2018

Chairman Christine Vough called the budget workshop to order at 8:32 AM. Supervisors also present were George Ballenstedt, Tressa Heffron and Kirstie Lake. Susan Seck was absent as her mother passed away the night before. Treasurer Ruth Casterline and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance.

Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company Chief Bryan Farr, First Assistant Chief Eric Benjamin and Company President Bob Blauvelt were present to discuss their budget for 2019. They are requesting an increase of \$12,000 for 2019. They expressed concerns that if a fire tax went into effect, it could hurt their fund drive – and questioned whether the hydrant rental payments, worker's comp payments, or other bills the township pays for them would be deducted from the fire tax prior to giving it to the fire company. Christine said we are still considering the fire tax, and also considering the LST tax. Tressa offered some suggestions for fundraising that they might consider.

The Board went into executive session at 9:15 AM for personnel, and reconvened the budget workshop at 9:30 AM.

Robin presented the needs and requests of the office for 2019. We have 3 computers that need replacement. Kai Pan Consulting quoted \$2,907 for the 3 computers, installation, transfer of files, configuration, application installation, etc., for each. Ruth has been looking at a new accounting software and has found one she likes, which she demoed on Thursday. The set up/start up would be \$2,300 for the first year, then \$1,300/year starting in 2020. Robin requested security for the office area entrance – possibly 'squaring up the front of the building' to create a space for people to walk in out of the weather and then be 'buzzed' into the lobby. New desk chairs and meeting table chairs were also discussed. Two requests were also given to the Board for the office staff for 2019.

Police Chief Roger Clink was present to go over his budget with the Board. He is having the part-time officers get certified for VASCAR in October. He would like to see an amount added to the budget for 'emergency' overtime, like they just experienced with the Hudock standoff. He has investigations that need to be completed and there is no money, so they are on hold. The police would also like a secure area for the call box and a place where people can be 'buzzed' in at a secure window. They would also like the carpet removed from the station and have either cement floors or VCT-type floors. He will get an estimate for our next budget meeting. They also need lockers for the part-timers and SROs and will install them upstairs. Kai gave them a price for new computers as well. Roger asked for \$50,000 to be added to Capital Purchases for another car in 2019, and \$5,000/radio to replace the portable police radios.

Ed Reid was present for the zoning office. He said the Expedition will need to be replaced in 3-4 years, so he would like \$12,500 put in Capital Reserve for the next 4 years. He asked that his

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and Cindy's clothing allowance remain at \$350 each. He also requested an underground locator for when he has to mark utilities for PA One Call (\$800 - \$1500). He would like an additional \$5,000 set aside for the ordinance updates (\$25,000 total) so we can have the ordinances printed. He also requested permission to go to the 2019 National Floodplain Managers Conference in the spring for 1 week in Columbus, OH. He will get the cost for our next budget meeting.

Susan had left her budget with Ruth and the numbers were plugged into the budget, but we will wait to discuss this further until Susan is able to be with us.

The Board discussed raising the fee for the junkyard licenses from \$75/year to \$100/year. No action was taken.

There being no further business, on motion of George, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to adjourn the budget workshop at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith  
Athens Township Secretary