

LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUDGET MEETING

September 16, 2024

5:00 PM

Present: Commissioner B. Rodemaker, Commissioner T. Buchleitner, Commissioner. J. Golden, Commissioner T. Benovic, Commissioner D. Williams, Twp. Secretary C. Cunningham, Twp. Accountant L. Bliley, Tax Collector/Treasurer J. Spitznogle

Residents Present: N/A

Commissioner Rodemaker called the 2024 Budget Work Session Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and waived the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Resolution 2024-22 regarding the selling of 2 police cruisers for scrap passed successfully with a roll call by Secretary Cunningham with all commissioners in favor.

Commissioner Buchleitner made a motion to hold quarterly joint meetings with Wesleyville Borough, a second was made by Commissioner Benovic. The first meeting will be held on Monday November 11 at 5 pm at Lawrence Park. The quarterly meetings for 2025 will be held, January 6, 2025 and July 7, 2025 at Lawrence Park Township and April 7, 2025 and October 6, 2025 at Wesleyville Borough. All quarterly meetings in 2025 will take place at 6 pm.

L. Bliley handed out budget booklets containing a Chart of Accounts explaining the budget line item numbers and what they represent in each department.

Concerning Sewers, Bliley commented that it is important to know the number of miles of sewer lines and number of manholes within the Township as this is an important factor in budgeting. Bliley said it is a good idea to have a booklet with all these items so that in the future when someone new comes into that position they will know what is there and how to budget for them. Looking at the current collection of sewer rates, Wabtec flows have been erratic. Bliley suggested that Commissioner Rodemaker make a call to EWW to find out what the collection rates are. Sewer rates will need to be calculated for 2025. At this point we are over budget considering all the issues that have been happening due to the deterioration of the Lift Stations.

Commissioner Rodemaker went over all the items that the Maintenance Department has requested for multiple projects, upgrades for the lift stations and needed equipment and will present his budget at a later date.

Commissioner Buchleitner said a lot of major changes will be made concerning staff in the front office including cutting office staff hours, and the physical office will only be open 3 days a week. All inquiries can come in through the website or residents may use the automated phone system directing them to the correct department. This will also be a cost saving on gas, electric, wages and benefits. This will be a trial year to see how this goes and if it is a smooth transition then next year permanent changes will be made.

Tax Collector Joyce Spitznogle asked the Board to consider raising the wage of the tax collector who will take her place in 2026.

Commissioner Buchleitner stated he would like to have a named Road Master to oversee the maintenance department. Commissioner Golden commented that a wage analysis should be done every year as we are below what the median salary is.

Bliley said that we are 75% through the year and things look fairly good for the remainder of 2024 and everything is right on track.

Commission T. Benovic motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Commissioner J. Golden and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Jo Cunningham
Township Secretary