

LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUDGET MEETING

September 30, 2024

5:00 PM

Present: Commissioner B. Rodemaker, Commissioner T. Buchleitner, Commissioner. J. Golden, Commissioner T. Benovic, Twp. Secretary C. Cunningham, Twp. Accountant L. Bliley. Absent-Commissioner D. Williams

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.

L. Bliley handed out budget work sheets for all departments.

Commissioner Rodemaker went over all the line items for the Sewer Department and presented his budget. Treatment and transport costs have gone up, so we have budgeted for those charges. With the Soudan's Lift Station project moving ahead there will be extra costs involved due to the cost of construction items going up since the inception of the original loan and project. The Maintenance Department has requested that the budget for equipment include repairs for and buying items for sewers. Upgrades to the Cunningham lift station are being made this fall so with that being done it should reduce the maintenance fees that come in from the license contractor that must be called for repairs.

Commissioner Golden presented his budget for buildings. Golden spoke extensively concerning utility bills and with the removal of the hydrant permit and the elimination of the utilities of the Main Street building, providing significant savings. The cost of Garbage collection will be decreased.

Commissioner Buchleitner did a brief introduction for the police budget, and it will be completely discussed at a later date.

Before the Maintenance and Police budgets are finalized the Commissioners would like those heads of departments to come in and speak to the board.

Commissioner Benovic gave a brief on the Parks and Recreation budget. Benovic said she is doing a 3% increase for the EMTA payment. Civil and Recreation programs will remain the same at \$5,500. The Board discussed moving the concerts to Lake Cliff Park. The Maintenance staff is in need of another part time mowing/weed trimming person. This will be considered at a later meeting.

Minor equipment, and the cost of gas will increase this budget line item. Maintenance repair will have a significant increase with the hope of putting in lighting for the volleyball/tennis courts. The pickle ball courts will have lines painting done as well. Napier Park will have safety lighting

placed by the pavilion. The tree budget will be decreased with the idea that we have additional chain saws purchased and hopefully be able to take down the ones that are in need. Port a Johns will have an expected yearly increase of 3% as well as the library contribution. Benovic will finish her report once all of her quotes she has requested, come in. Overall, the Parks and Recreation budget went up 11% over all with one major project.

Commissioner Buchleitner said he spoke with the tax collector regarding millage, this will be discussed at a later date. Tennant landlord rates were collected this year and will be continued for 2025 this also will be looked into at a later date. Building permits schedule of fees will incur a rate increase to keep us up to date with like municipalities. Parking tickets will also have a rate increase as well in the hopes it will cut down on illegal parking. Emergency vehicles are not able to get down streets because of illegal parking. This also limits leaf pick up as well as snow plowing creating safety issues. Buchleitner also said that the Municipal office will reduce its hours thus reducing utilities as well as wage costs. Also reduced has been engineering fees as well as solicitor fees. The IT provider for both the PD and Municipal office has been changed and will save a great amount of money. Wages sheets will be sent out to all Commissioners and considered at a later date.

All budgets will be discussed before passed. Next week the streets budget will be presented.

Commission T. Benovic motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Commissioner J. Golden and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Jo Cunningham  
Township Secretary