

**Tredyffrin Township
Minutes – November 8, 2010**

The first regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township for the month of November was held on the above date at the Township Building. Board members present included Robert Lamina, Chairman; Paul Olson, Vice Chairman; John DiBuonaventuro, Philip Donahue, Warren Kampf, Michelle Kichline and Evelyn Richter. Also in attendance were Mimi Gleason, Township Manager; Thomas Scott, Assistant Township Manager; Stephen Norcini, Director of Public Works; Stephen Burgo, Township Engineer; Superintendent Andrew Chambers; Lt. Anthony Giaimo; Thomas Hogan, Solicitor; and Jolene Buffman, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order

Mr. Lamina called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Lamina, seconded by Mr. Olson, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 18, 2010, as amended.

Announcements

The Cassatt Road Leaf Site will be open Monday through Friday until December 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. with the exception of November 11, 25 and 26. Through the generosity of a volunteer, it will be open on the following weekend dates: November 13, 20 and 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

Mr. Lamina said the Board met in Executive Session prior to the public meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Mrs. Richter said she attended the Zoning Hearing Board, and said several homes were asking for variances. One included a request to operate a kennel as a pet grooming facility, and another request was to sell fire wood on the residents' property. A decision will be made at the Tuesday, December 16th meeting.

Mrs. Richter said the PA Turnpike Commission will hold an Open House on November 16th from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Clarion Hotel in King of Prussia. They will be discussing the Widening Project for Milepost 320-326. A round table discussion on sound walls will be coming up soon.

Mrs. Richter reported that the Sidewalk Subcommittee has received the survey results and will be reviewing and analyzing them. The group is nearing the completion of their recommendation, and asks the Board to allow them to meet in December and January, with the intention of presenting their report at the January 24, 2011 meeting.

Adoption of a resolution setting lease rental and rate and any sewer revenue of the Authority

Ms. Gleason said this resolution is required from our bond documents for the sewer bond. It requires we verify the Township pay the Municipal Authority out of the revenues and receipts of the sewer system and any other revenues of the Township that may be applied to the sewer bonds.

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mr. Lamina, seconded by Mr. Olson, and passed unanimously to adopt a resolution setting lease rental and rate and any sewer revenue of the Authority.

Presentation of the 2011 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Lamina said we must adopt the Final Budget by the end of the year, and will vote at the December 20th meeting. The Preliminary Budget will be posted on our website, www.tredyffrin.org.

Ms. Gleason began her overview with the General Fund. She said we are looking at revenue in the amount of \$16.7 million. Half of the revenue comes from real estate taxes, one quarter comes from other taxes, and one quarter comes from fees, fines and grants. There is no real estate tax increase proposed for 2011. We are proposing to increase fees for park rentals and the mechanical amusement device tax.

Ms. Gleason said staffing is the largest expense of the General Fund. Two-thirds of the expenses cover salaries and benefits. There will be a 4% increase in staffing costs, and a 4% decrease in non-personnel costs, for an overall operating increase of 1.5%. \$5 million is budgeted for capital projects including streets, stormwater, renovation for the Library and purchasing vehicles and equipment. We did not purchase any vehicles or equipment in 2010.

For 2011, we are proposing a revision to the policy for large commercial transfer taxes received, a policy we have used since 2006 to smooth an erratic revenue source. Since then, 20% of the receipts collected from large commercial transfers have been used in the past as annual revenue, and we will continue to do this in 2011. For 2011 only, an additional \$340,000 has been budgeted from the past large commercial transfer tax receipts for vehicles and equipment. In future years, we recommend taking only 20% of the transfer tax fund for both the annual operating revenue smoothing and for vehicles and equipment.

Ms. Gleason said the Sewer Utility Fund for 2011 is \$4.4 million, which is 4% less than 2010. There are no proposed changes in the Sewer Utility Fee for 2011. Half of the expenses for the Sewer Utility Fund come from paying for sewer conveyance and treatment. There is a decrease in costs from all the treatment plants. We are looking at \$5 million in projects to be paid out of the sewer capital reserve, which is very healthy. There is also the possibility of grant funding to off-set the costs of a traffic signal installation.

Ms. Gleason gave a summary of the total operating budget which totals \$22.6 million. The Police have the largest part of the budget at \$7.5 million, which include operating and capital. Almost all of their expenses are for staffing. They will be receiving a significant grant for law enforcement equipment with Chester County, and also propose to purchase radios and a repeater to improve communication with other emergency responders, and vehicles.

The Fire and Ambulance budget is \$1 million in operating costs. We are looking at restoring the 2009 funding level for contributions to the fire companies. The budget also includes state aid to the Berwyn and Paoli fire companies.

The Street and Bridges budget is over \$5 million, which includes \$2 million in capital. The Paoli Road improvements are grant funded. Stormwater improvements are planned for Trout Creek and Old State Road. The four biggest categories – street lights and traffic signals, general street maintenance, snow clearing and weather events, and storm sewer maintenance – each take approximately \$500,000 to operate.

The Park and Recycling budget is \$1.8 million for our 14 parks. This year's budget includes funding for summer concerts and fireworks, which will be paid for by donations.

The Libraries have an operating and capital budget of \$3 million, including \$1.5 million for renovations. The Development Regulation and Administration budgets are \$3.7 million in operating and capital. The Sewer Budget is \$10.9 million in operating and capital. It takes \$3.8 million to run the Township sewer system.

Mr. Lamina asked Supt. Chambers to explain the request for funding for new radios and a repeater, as well as cameras in patrol vehicles. Supt. Chambers said we have had trouble for several years with the County 800 megahertz radio system. Our portable radios are aging and technology is outdated and equipment is failing. They are proposing a 450 megahertz radio to be able to communicate with neighboring municipalities, local fire companies, the Public Works Department. Mr. DiBuonaventuro said other local entities are investing in this radio system, which will enable the radios in our police cars and Public Works vehicles to be able to communicate with the three fire companies, TE School District, and the Paoli Hospital. Supt. Chambers said the current cameras and recording devices in our patrol cars are aging and we have proposed purchasing a new package.

Ms. Gleason concluded her presentation, and said we will adopt the final budget by the December 20th meeting.

New Matters – Board

Mr. Lamina congratulated Mr. Kampf on becoming the new State Representative.

New Matters – Citizens - None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene E. Buffman, Recording Secretary