

Penbrook Borough Budget Meeting

September 23, 2024

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Elected officials present were Newcomer, Stokes, Deardorff, N. Shaw, Dry and Armbruster. There were no visitors.

2. General Fund Expenses

A. Hogarth reviewed all General Fund Expenses not previously covered. Comments and topics of discussion included:

01.409.500 Hogarth commented that although Council has not yet reviewed General Fund Revenues those numbers are in the spreadsheet and the surplus, while a surplus is the least it's been in recent years and doesn't allow for inter-fund transfers. With that being said, Hogarth encouraged the elected officials and the Storm Water Authority to seriously consider this expense account. While the Borough is a property owner subject to the storm water fee, it's simply taking taxpayer's monies to satisfy this fee.

01.415.510 Emergency Management Coordinator is proposed to be cut by 50% as Bloss is reporting that the need for a deputy is not necessary.

01.451.246 Dry would like Council to consider replacing the holiday wreaths that are close to beyond repair. There are 8 light poles on which the decorations hang and each item ranges in price that the total would be approximately \$5,000.00. Last year's line was at \$3,000 so the proposed budget will show an increase to \$8,000.00 to account for this purchase.

01.451.248 Hogarth asked Council if the tax payers should be subsidizing this program. Those in attendance agreed the program is worth keeping but should be funded solely through donations and not General Fund monies. Newcomer suggested posting no money for this account and the same for the corresponding revenue line and then any cash donations could be posted which would then reflect the amount of money that could be spent.

01.452 Hogarth gave a brief on the Little Valley project. Elm Street Station Park was discussed particularly the weeds and plants that need kept up. Hogarth also said mulch needs added but will need to be purchased before the next budget year.

01.454 Deardorff commented that the Borough has lost a lot of trees recently and there has been no effort to replace them. He would like to engage the Conservation District and come up with a plan to have trees available for planting. He said this is not necessary for next year but he would like to do something in the near future.

01.492 Inter-Fund Transfers. Hogarth pointed out that currently the General Fund has a surplus of \$23,000.00 which does not allow for inter-fund transfers to support the park

program or future vehicle purchases. Council should re-evaluate at the next budget meeting when revenues will be on the agenda.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted.

Joseph Hogarth

Borough Secretary