

# Penbrook Borough Budget Meeting

November 12, 2024

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

## 2. Capital Purchases Discussion

A. Police Vehicle: Hogarth would like Council to approve ordering upfitting parts before the end of the year before costs increase. Shaw asked about restocking fees if the order is cancelled. Hogarth was unaware of any but would ask the vendor. Also he said there were no special equipment pieces and he would assume that the vendor would use in another vehicle if that were the case. Other than that issue, Council approved the order before 2025.

B. Asphalt Hot Box: The cost of a Spalding hot box is \$60,000. Approximately \$16,000 can be used from Liquid Fuels. Hogarth suggested if Council is interested, that the balance be split between the General and Sewer funds as well as asking the Authority for participation of a small amount. Hogarth suggested 10%. Newcomer said he would like to buy in this budget year. All others agreed. Hogarth said he would add an action item to purchase on the December 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

C. Wood Chipper and Backhoe: Hogarth advised Council that the 902 grant for the proposed woody waste recycling program was awarded by DEP for approximately \$196,000.00. It includes both pieces of equipment as well as money to create a woody waste collection site. The site has to be approved by the DEP and in the event we don't get the approval the material will be transported to Zeagers in Middletown. Hogarth also briefed Council on the backhoe relationship with Paxtang Borough. Paxtang was also awarded a grant to purchase a backhoe but did so assuming they could transfer ownership. Hogarth told Council that he advised Paxtang that could not happen. All elected officials advised they want to pursue the 902 grant and maintain ownership of our own backhoe.

D. Parking lot paving: Hogarth again suggested that even though the borough parking lot is in bad shape that it shouldn't be considered at this time. Newcomer also said that he's not opposed to having it redone but should be done so as part of an overall strategy regarding a building project after Council moves forward with what may or may not happen with the property. Shaw asked about paving the public works apron. Hogarth commented that the estimate for that was roughly \$10,000 and appears in the general fund budget to be approved in December.

3. Street Paving Projects: Hogarth pointed out that there is a line item in the Liquid Fuels Fund to be approved with the overall budget allocating \$100,000.00 for street paving. He commented that according to the roadbotics survey, there are several roadways that are in bad shape. He asked Public Works Chair, Shaw, to consider having a committee meeting to review the data and advise Council which street projects should take priority in 2025. Shaw agreed. Newcomer asked if there were any benefits, especially financially, in doing larger projects. Hogarth said he would pose that question to the engineer.

Armbruster made a motion to close the budget meetings and cancel the meeting scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup>. Deardorff seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Joseph Hogarth

Borough Secretary