

LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUDGET MEETING

October 10, 2023

5:00 PM

Present: Commissioner J. Golden, Commissioner T. Benovic, Commissioner J. Moffett, Twp. Secretary C. Cunningham, Tax Collector/Treasurer J. Spitznogle

Visitors: Lisa Walters, Crystal Murzynski, Dale Williams, Tom Buchleitner, Chris Buchleitner, Paula Cassidy

President J. Golden called the 2023 Budget Work Session Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and waived the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board was given all updated information concerning the prospective changes as previously discussed.

All Budgets were just reviewed and adjustments and reductions were made regarding the police dept., Parks and Rec., Public Works. The HVAC loan will have 25% of that covered by Sewers as the Township Building houses the staff that manages the administration of that department.

Commissioner Golden gave examples of what the individual mill increases would entail per home that is assessed at \$100 thousand. Right now, Lawrence Park mills is at 5.75 which is low in comparison to other Municipalities. If the Township were to continue with no increase the Township would operate at a 217,733.41 loss. Golden continued examples of 0.5 mills, 1 mill, 1.5 mills, 2 mills.

Golden suggested that we must consider that is not accounted for in the current budget for 2024 is in the event of an unfortunate accident and trying to be effective and preventative moving forward. He would like the Board to consider adding a third full time maintenance person and this person would fill in the gap and allow us to be more effective in the long run. There would be adjustments in the future regarding part-time plow drivers and mowing. Also, he stated that a Street Sweeper would need to be purchased if the grant was not awarded to the Township. He suggested that we budget to finance that purchase. Golden stated we should consider an operating reserve fund to minimize future short falls and deficits and for long term fiscal planning.

Treasurer J. Spitznogle suggested that a new account be opened in an account that yields a high interest return. The Board agreed that this would be a good investment for the Township.

For a 2 mill increase in taxes the residents would have a third full time maintenance person, a new street sweeper, a new police cruiser, saving money for future incidental projects/prevention, a new mower, enhanced IT program for Cyber Security, \$30 thousand for tree removal in parks and public ways, and \$10 thousand stipend for the Fire Department toward

their utilities. . This is not a trend for this much of an increase yearly. This increase will set the Township on a forward path with a lot of action taken in one year.

The board agreed with the changes and to move forward and vote to advertise the Ordinance at the October 11, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Benovic motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Moffett and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Jo Cunningham
Township Secretary