

**Amity Township Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission**  
**Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes**

October 4, 2023

**Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

The October 4, 2023, workshop meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Township building, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairperson Kim McGrath, followed by the pledge to the flag. The following were in attendance:

**SUPERVISORS**

Kim McGrath, Chairperson  
Dave Hackett, Vice Chair  
Paul Weller  
Terry Jones  
Kevin Keifrider

**STAFF**

Troy Bingaman, Township Manager  
Jeffrey Smith, Chief of Police  
Pamela Kisch, Township Secretary

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

Robin Fox, Boone Area Library, thanked the Board for their continued support of the library. Ms. Fox stated they currently have one vacancy for an Amity Township resident to serve on the Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Bingaman stated he spoke with someone regarding serving and encouraged them to attend a Library Board meeting.

**BUDGET**

Mr. Bingaman stated the EMS Tax instituted in 2023 funded TowerDIRECT, but not fully. Payments for EMS were changed from monthly to quarterly, with the last 2023 payment being made in January 2024. Mr. Bingaman recommended a .275 mil EMS Tax would be sufficient for 2024, which would be a .125 mil increase. Mr. Keifrider asked if staff had reached out to TowerDIRECT to determine if they are happy providing services for Amity Township and/or looking to increase membership fees. Mr. Bingaman stated he could reach out, but if they had concerns, they would have reached out before now, as they are well aware the Township looks at budgets at this time of the year. TowerDIRECT representatives had mentioned they may approach the Villa and Amity Place because they account for the highest number of emergency responses in the Township. Mr. Bingaman stated if they should receive funding from the Villa or Amity Place, that revenue is to be subtracted from the net amount due by the Township.

EIT is trending up at 6%. Projected 2024 Revenues are up 8.84% over 2023, which is actually more like 4% because that total includes the 2024 Recycling Grant. Projected 2024 Expenses are 10.62% above 2023, which is really more like 6% because of capital equipment purchases from the Recycling Grant. Health Insurance expenses are up 8.1%. The Township is self-insured; therefore, rates are based on actual claims. Police expenses are up 6.5%, which is a result of one officer returning from military deployment and the addition of another full-time Police Officer. Road Department expenses are up due to the addition of a part-time permanent position, the health insurance rate increase, and includes \$50K for stormwater projects that may or may not be expended. The General Fund debt is

up because it was determined the Township wasn't following PFM's schedule of repayment of the 2017 bond. The Recreation Fund is finally in a positive position. Mr. Bingaman stated he would feel comfortable with a .1 mil increase in the General Fund, as the Township will likely receive insurance dividends and may not spend money budgeted for stormwater. A total tax increase of .225 mil (.125 for EMS Tax and .1 for General Tax) would equate to \$22.50 per \$100K of assessed value. The Fire Tax was proposed to remain the same. Mr. Jones stated the fire companies were told three years ago they needed to account for how donated funds are utilized and recommended the Board demand to see a professional audit of the same. Mrs. McGrath stated she understood the funds were being used for paid drivers. Mrs. McGrath asked staff to confirm the fire companies are aware that they should not be paying taxes for fuel.

Sewer Rates – Mr. Bingaman stated the proposed budget indicates a small surplus at the end of the year, without including the proposed borrowing. The Board agreed smaller increases over time make sense to get the quarterly rates where they need to be, once we know more about what grant money will or won't be awarded, ie. \$158.00 with a full grant award, \$180.00 with half grant award, and \$200.00 if the Township receives no grant award. Consensus of the Board was to increase quarterly sewer rates to \$145.00 in January, an increase of \$5.00.

If there continues to be an influx of revenue from commercial developers like 447 Old Swede and Leaf Creek Farm, the Recreation expenses could be moved out of the General Fund and into the Parks and Recreation Fund. Traffic Impact Fees (North) for widening of Toll Gate Road would be carried over to the 2024 budget. Monocacy Hill Fund has a small amount of money left. The "pit toilet" will need to be replaced. Mr. Bingaman stated he has no idea what replacement will cost. Liquid Fuels is a moving target with no real way of determining what that fund will look like until we have an idea of road work to be done in 2024.

Mr. Bingaman stated the \$10,000.00 previously approved for community events will be moved into the Harvest Fest Fund only if needed. After a brief discussion, the Board was in agreement the proposed budget with an **EMS Tax increase of .125 mil, General Tax increase of .1 mil and quarterly sewer rate increase of \$5.00** beginning in January 2024 looked good. Permission to advertise the budget will be placed on the October 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.

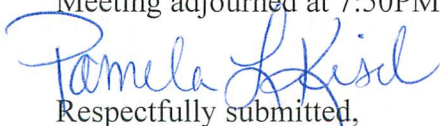
Mr. Bingaman stated a Public Hearing will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> for the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. The Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and a Special Meeting will also be needed to adopt the TIF District Ordinance on November 29<sup>th</sup>, which will require advertisement. Mr. Boland stated he would advertise the Public Hearing twice. The Special Meeting will be advertised once.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:50PM with no further business, Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Keifrider to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.



Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela L. Kisch, Township Secretary