

BUDGET WORKSHOP

President Becker called the 2017 budget workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 24, 2016, in Borough Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 21 Locust Street, Macungie, PA. Council Members in attendance were Alma Akinjiola, Chris Becker, David Boyko, and Roseann Schleicher. Council Members Greg Hutchison, Marvin Moyer and John Yerman were absent. Also present were Borough Manager Chris Boehm, Mayor Gary Cordner, Administrative Assistant Cynthia Hartzell and Fire Chief Mike Natysyn.

Borough Manager Boehm presented the general fund revenue and expenditures budget that she reviewed. During the revenue budget review, she pointed out her recommendation to increase the rental for 24 S. Church Street to \$450 and the Macungie Institute Board of Trustees recommended an increase in rental rates, excluding leases.

When reviewing the expenditure budget, Borough Manager Boehm informed Council the current auditor, Long Barrell, is downsizing and will not be performing the Borough's 2016 audit. She will be advertising for Requests for Proposals for an auditor. Borough Manager Boehm noted the 9.3% increase in the health insurance rates and noted the change in the rate for the Workers Compensation Insurance that she received today. Borough Manager Boehm noted the police chief's salary is in the budget. If Council decides not to hire a police chief, Sergeant Kocher would be able to use the salary for part time officers or overtime as he proposed. The Street Resurfacing and Overlay line item amount proposed to reconstruct Fairview Street from Vine to the cul-de-sac was changed to \$90,000. President Becker commented that was the amount to be used for street work each year. The Church Street traffic light project amount was adjusted. All the changes brought the deficit to about \$1,511 for the general fund.

Fire Chief Mike Natysyn requested an increase to the Fire Department's allocation of \$80,000. He suggested Council implement a real estate property fire tax of .35 mills which would bring in about \$80,000. Council commented that the tax would only affect the Borough residents yet the Department services outside the Borough limits. Fire Chief Natysyn noted the Fire Department receives funds from Lower Macungie Township for their assistance in the Township. He reported on items that need to be purchased which are air packs and a pumper/tanker truck. Council and Fire Chief Natysyn discussed applying for grants. The Fire Department did apply for grants for the air packs and the truck but they will not know if they are awarded the grant until the middle of 2017. Council discussed spacing the number of air pack replacements over a number of years instead of having to replace all at one time and suggested checking if the air packs could be refurbished to offset the number to be purchased. Fire Chief Natysyn will research refurbishing the air packs.

The sewer fund budget will be reviewed at the next budget workshop.

Adjournment

At 8:48 p.m. Borough Council recessed the budget workshop until October 31, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hartzell
Administrative Assistant