

BUDGET WORKSHOP

President Becker called the 2017 budget workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 14, 2016, in Borough Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 21 Locust Street, Macungie, PA. Council Members in attendance were Alma Akinjiola, Chris Becker, David Boyko, Roseann Schleicher and John Yerman. Council Members Greg Hutchison and Marvin Moyer were absent. Also present were Borough Manager Chris Boehm, Mayor Gary Corder, and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Hartzell.

President Becker called a brief executive session for personnel with no action taken when the meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Lisa Marten, President of the Library Board, was in attendance. President Becker noted the Borough budgeted for the requested amount from the Library. Ms. Marten reported the addition to the Library will hopefully started in spring. She thanked Council for their support.

Council reviewed the police budget. Mayor Corder reported Sergeant Kocher is comfortable with staying in the Officer In Charge position. He recommended adding a 2nd 30 hour Police Officer using the wages from the Police Chief and splitting the balance between the overtime and part time line items. Mayor Corder requested to keep the 4th police car to install the license plate reader on it. The reader would not be able to be installed on another police car because it has its own computer and cannot be loaded onto the computers currently in the cars. Currently there is no extra insurance cost for the 4th car until the policy renews in May. Council decided to revisit keeping the car before May or if there is a repair expense of over \$750 before May. Council was informed the full time police officers have vacation that has not been used and after some discussion, Council decided this year's unused vacation could be cashed in as long as the police budget does not go over budget.

Council approved using the budget funds from the Chief wages for a 2nd 30 hour police officer and increase the overtime and part time wage line items.

Russ George, President of the Fire Department Board, Todd Heffner, Assistant Chief and two other fire fighters attended the budget workshop. They were requesting Council initiate a fire property tax. Mr. George provided paperwork to President Becker and Council Member Boyko as requested. The paperwork to President Becker was part of their budget and the quote for the cost of a pumper tanker that they want to purchase. Council and the Members of the Fire Department discussed their request, equipment needed and grants that were applied for the equipment. Council decided the budgeted allocation to the fire department would remain at \$40,000 and when and if the fire department is awarded the grants, Council will revisit the contribution to the fire department.

Council reviewed the sewer rates provided by Borough Manager Boehm. She proposed the sewer fixed rate would lower to \$28.33 quarterly due to removing the I&I work from the budget and the flow rate would remain the same. There will be another fee on the utility billing for the sewer capital fund in the amount of \$64.50 quarterly. Council decided the sewer rates will start with the 1st quarter of 2017.

Council decided the budget stands as presented and discussed and no more workshops will be needed.

Adjournment

At 8:58 p.m. Borough Council adjourned the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hartzell
Administrative Assistant