

Minutes of the Spring Garden Township Board of Commissioners Workshop
5:00 p.m. – November 13, 2024

Persons Present:

Daniel E. Rooney, President Commissioner
David Detwiler, Vice President Commissioner
Anne Gray, Commissioner
Luther C Wike Jr. (Township Manager)

Andrew Herrold, Commissioner
Thomas Gwilt, Commissioner
Krista Gardner (CFO)

I. Commence Workshop

A. 2025 Draft Budget (Information presented by Krista Gardner unless noted otherwise)

1. General Fund

- i)** Reviewed 2025 revenue and expenses and compared the draft 2025 budget to the 2024 budget. Current reserve funds reviewed.
- ii)** Township Manager presented on the recent updates to the 2025 draft budget.
- iii)** Krista noted that the draft budget is due for advertising and will be presented for approval at the December meeting.
 - a)** Discussion on the availability of the draft budget.
 - 1) The Solicitor remarked that there are challenges with posting the budget online, even in draft form.
 - 2) President Commissioner Rooney remarked that he does not want to be afraid of sharing public information. Commissioner Gwilt agreed.
 - 3) Commissioner Herrold stated that the legal requirements for posting draft budgets are antiquated (sending to the newspaper). The public should have access as is required by law. Publishing the draft budget to the website may set a precedent. Commissioner Rooney commented that there should be a policy for online access.
 - 4) Commissioner Gray stated that electronic access allows those with visual or hearing impairments to have access to the documents.
 - 5) Melissa Stuart of 1161 Hollywood Terrace - suggested that the online version could be watermarked as a draft like the physical version that will be available for review at the Township offices. She also requested that draft meeting minutes be made available on the website. Krista stated that draft minutes are not posted because they are not adopted. Township Manager indicated that a live stream is available.
 - iv)** Krista reviewed 2025 budgeted sewer revenues and expenses:
 - a)** There is an increase of five percent for sewer rates beginning in Q2 of 2025. The commissioners agreed a 5% increase is necessary with the increase in treatment cost.
 - b)** PA American Water is increasing their treatment rate in 2025.
 - c)** Upcoming sewer projects discussed including the Hoffman Road sewer project.
 - v)** Krista reviewed the following points aspects of Liquid Fuels:
 - a)** \$70,000 is budgeted for the Ludlow Sewer Project.
 - b)** There is an expected 5% decrease in state funds year-over-year for the next five (5) years as the state determines how to collect revenue on electric vehicles.
 - c)** Commissioner Gray suggested reviewing State funding opportunities or other subsidies for installing charging stations.
 - d)** Township Manager suggested that the Township move away from leasing vehicles as the leases on the current vehicles end. The Township has a full-time mechanic and township vehicle mileage is low. The Commissioners agreed.
 - vi)** Sewer Crew Leader Brent Barley presented his thoughts on the Hoffman Road project. Brent stated that they looked at several options, reviewed them with residents, and

discussed the project at length. Township Manager commented that the project may require additional engineering due to complexities of the site.

B. Other Business - None

C. Public Comment - None

II. Conclude Workshop

Commissioner Detwiler- Adjourned 5:59pm

Respectfully submitted,

Luther C Wike Jr.
Township Secretary

EA

APPROVED