

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF THE 2020 BUDGET MEETING
DECEMBER 30, 2019

The bi-monthly meeting of the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building, 1112 State Street, Longswamp Township, Mertztown, Pennsylvania, 7:00 p.m., prevailing time as previously advertised and posted.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL

Officials Present: Michael Sacks, Chairman; Randy Sicher, Vice Chairman; Joyce Marin, Supervisor; Jill Nagy, Esquire, representing the Solicitor; Joni McPike, Treasurer; Secretary Jennifer Wassell-Bonser, was absent from meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Sacks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Mike Sacks ask for approval for minutes of the February 21, 2019 Topton Ambulance Service Workshop. Randy Sicher made the motion to approve the February 21, 2019 minutes of the Topton Ambulance Service Workshop. Joyce Marin seconded the motion after a couple of corrections. All in favor. .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Sacks announced they will be approving and accepting the 2020 Township Budget and Tax Resolution along with a vote on the Ambulance EMS Tax increase.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve and adopt the 2020EMS Tax increase, Township Budgets and Tax Resolution;

Randy Sicher made a **motion** to accept the EMS Tax increase from .16 mill to .315 mill; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. Mike Sakes advised he would have to abstain due to some may think it is a conflict of interest for him due to his some being a board member of the Topton Ambulance Service. Joyce Marin explained they would be doubling the EMS tax, not multiplying it 5 times as noted by some. She also gave a short history on what has brought us to this point. Ms Marin explained the Topton Ambulance still has issues that must be addressed. She also advised there will be an audit, a third party review, annual audit and a part time Business Manager.

Mike Sacks stated this was a statewide issue. Further, if we were to get another EMS service, they would not come here for free.

Kathy Moll question how much of a tax increase per \$100,000 value.

Randy Sicher stated it would be \$15 more

Sean Young question if a matrix or mile stones would be placed on the money.

Jill Nagy stated the EMS Tax would be handled in one motion. A second motion will present the requirements and restrictions before money will be given to the EMS.

Josh Sheetz stated the goal of the Topton Ambulance is to be fully transparent.

Sean Young ask if the EMS books are open.

Josh Sheetz stated that last year is said the books were open and he has not had a person to ask him to

look. The only questions have been relative to the subscriptions. Mr. Sheetz said he was open to talk about anything. Mr. Sheetz also explained we now have municipal representatives sitting on the Board.

Ralph Master ask how a membership will work.

Josh Sheetz stated you would not have to pay beyond your insurance.

Kathy Moll ask if there would be a shortfall now that all residents would be members.

Josh Sheetz stated he hope to make any up by still getting donations from residents as well as fund raisers.

Linda Hilbert stated it should have been handled long ago.

Greg Kubar stated the elephant in the room is the mortgage.

Josh Sheetz stated that is correct but it is being addressed, reduction or restructure.

Greg Kubar, what if bank says no.

Joyce Marin stated we may have to go to Plan 'B'. If we do, we will still need additional moneys to facilitate another carrier.

Ed Reitz, where is Lutheran Home in this.

Josh Sheetz, they are no help.

Bruce Meitzler stated in the past, the EMS was run with volunteers. He was part of the decision at the time and he thought it was the right decision at the time. He stated now it is staffed with paid staff and it is not cheap. Volunteers have gone away.

Dave Seaman ask if we could do a per capita tax.

Jill Nagy it must be a property tax.

Julie Oswald ask about our responsibility.

Jill Nagy stated we are not obligated. The Service has to agree to cover the area.

Donna Tamel stated she was disgusted with state reps at the last meeting.

Dave Reppert gave a short history of the why and where the EMS building is and why moved from Topton American Legion.

Don Hickman stated the money is gone regarding the EMS. Whether we make the tax increase are not, the EMS still needs an audit, needs a business manager, needs a business plan for example, making transports.

Chairman Sacks called for the vote. Randy Sicher, Yes and Joyce Marin, Yes. Chairman Sacks abstained due to possible conflict of interest due to his son being on the Board of Topton Ambulance Service. Motion passed.

Chairman Sacks entertained a motion that no release of EMS funds will be made unless the EMS have a Business, Plan, a Business Manage, and an annual audit. Joyce Marin made a **motion** for the EMS Tax increase; no release of funds will be allowed until the Topton Ambulance agrees to cooperate with preparing a business plan, sharing annual budget audit and agrees to a part-time business manager; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. Mike Sacks call the vote: Joyce-yes; Randy-yes; Mike Sacks abstained due to a conflict of interest due to his Son being a volunteer and on the Board of the Ambulance Core. 2-I's and 1-abstain (Mike Sacks due to son on the Topton Ambulance Board); vote passes

Joyce Marin made a **motion** to accept and adopt the 2020 Township Budget and Tax Resolution as it was presented with no Tax increases: Randy Sicker seconded the motion. All in favor.

Joyce Marin introduced our new Township Treasure, Joni McPike and expressed her appreciation for all her work in getting the Budget together.

Resident questioned what we cannot get the minutes in a timely manner. Board stated they are working on it.

Resident questioned what we can do regarding the Bike Riders. Jill Nagy suggest they write the State Police account the Board has been writing letter to no avail.

Chairman Sacks recognized Randy Sicher for his 6 years of service on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Randy Sicher made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted; Donald Hickman, Supervisor