

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963
OCTOBER 25, 2005 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES



CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Zimmerman called the October 25, 2005 meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Attending were Supervisors Herman Clemens and Jerry Wise; also present were Secretary - Treasurer Kathy Ferguson, Judith Lehman, Roadmaster John Heinbach, and Sallie Deichert.

General Fund Budget items were reviewed with the following items discussed.

- ♦ Highway Truck Repair costs were discussed. Zimmerman asked Heinbach if he would need more money this year for repairs on the backhoe, loader or roller. Heinbach said they fixed the drum and the pump on the roller this year; he said they will need to replace the cables on the John Deere mower and he estimates that will cost \$1,500.
- ♦ Highway Winter Maintenance was discussed. Zimmerman asked if we are buying cinders from the quarry and Heinbach said we are now, last year he got \$1,800 worth free from the co-generation plant, but this year the guy didn't call him back. Heinbach said he thinks we have enough cinders for the winter, Kintzel hauled ten loads of cinders and we hauled nine or ten loads. Heinbach said we have contracted for 350 tons of salt this year and used about 200 tons last year. Zimmerman asked if we can get cinders from Felty, Heinbach said he doesn't have any. Zimmerman asked if we get any from the school, Heinbach said Washington Township gets them now; we used to get them about every two or three weeks. Heinbach estimated for next year the cost for cinders will be \$4,000 and salt will cost \$15,000. It was noted that we need to check the slips for salt deliveries to make sure we are not being charged more when Klinger delivers our salt, the salt should be about \$40 per ton through the state contract. Zimmerman said Heinbach should check what the quarry charges to deliver stone too.
- ♦ Highway Road Maintenance was discussed. Heinbach said they should budget about \$8,000 for line striping and he would like to have Alpha Space Control do the job again, they did a better job. The Board agreed to budget \$8,000 for line striping.
- ♦ Highway Storm Sewers were discussed. Heinbach asked what roads would be paved next year and the Board said it was not discussed. Zimmerman said he and Aungst had discussed that they don't want to see blacktop over the shoulders like on Outwood Drive. Heinbach said the reason they did that on Outwood Drive and on Mountain Road is every time it rained they had to go out with the backhoe and clean the leaves and debris off both roads; since they put macadam and drop boxes in it doesn't have any water there. Heinbach said he needs four grates to replace the ones he used from stock drop boxes; he used the grates at Terrace Hill. The Board budgeted \$2,000 for storm sewers.
- ♦ Fuel purchases were discussed. Zimmerman asked why they aren't buying more fuel at Hess's; Gooseberry doesn't claim the taxes for us. Heinbach said he just found that out last week and he was under the impression they did, Aungst was supposed to set up the account that way. Zimmerman said Heinbach should talk to Gooseberry and tell them if they won't do this service for us, we are going to have to go to Hess's to buy our fuel.

(Supervisor Diane Tobin joined the meeting at 7 PM.)

- ♦ Zimmerman said he wanted to discuss the blacktop amount with Heinbach; Heinbach apologized saying he wasn't aware it was that high and when he checked the budget in June he was okay. Zimmerman said next year he will have to watch it and cut back on the blacktop. Zimmerman said they are planning a road tour in the next two months. Heinbach asked if they want him to go along, Zimmerman said that wouldn't be a bad idea. Tobin said it is planned for December 4th at 1 PM. Zimmerman told Heinbach that next year the Roadmaster will set up his own budget.

(Roadmaster Heinbach was excused from the meeting.)

- ♦ Interest income was discussed. Ferguson said she is checking to see if interest can be withdrawn from the Sovereign government investment account with the fixed interest rate until January of 2006.
- ♦ A discussion was held on using Liquid Fuel money for blacktop instead of the items that were in the Liquid Fuels budget. Zimmerman said Ferguson should use bills that would be the easiest to use. Ferguson said she doesn't feel it should be changed from the budget items because we are telling the public when we advertise the budget that we are spending Liquid Fuel money on certain line items, we incur bills for those items during the year and it becomes an encumbered amount; those items should be paid with Liquid Fuels money, not General Fund money. Zimmerman said he doesn't think it's a problem, the budget is a guideline of what you intend to do next year; if you spend \$40,000 on sewer instead of spending \$40,000 that was budgeted on water, you do not need to amend the budget. Zimmerman said they are not being deceitful; when they started out with the budget that is what their intent was; they can change what they spend it on during the year. Ferguson disagreed saying the public is notified and has a chance to comment on the budget when it is advertised, that is what they expect the Township to spend the money on during the year, if you make major changes without advertising it, the public has no chance to comment. Zimmerman said a major change is when you take it out of one and put it in another, here it is still highway maintenance that we are using it on. Zimmerman said Ferguson should not break out items for the budget, just combine things for the budget. Tobin said she agrees with Ferguson and what we have budgeted for Liquid Fuels are the items we should pay out of Liquid Fuels. Zimmerman said there is a lot of bookkeeping to do when it could be done easier, it was so simple before. Tobin said this is the first year we are taking money out of Liquid Fuels for other bills besides paving; it is just administrative work that Ferguson needs to do provide the paperwork for the transactions. Ferguson said last year to make the budget you had to take money from Liquid Fuels; you needed it to balance the budget. Ferguson said she told them last year it would be easier to budget one larger item rather than several small items in Liquid Fuels. Tobin said we needed to use Liquid Fuels so we didn't have to go into our Capital Reserves, she didn't suggest using Liquid Fuels money. Zimmerman said pay it however you have to and make it work out. Ferguson said she will do it the other way if the Board directs her to and it is put in the minutes. Zimmerman said to do it the way it is budgeted then and added that Aungst was trying to save her work. Tobin said if Aungst was trying to save her work, then he should have thought about that last year when he broke it out in the budget. Zimmerman said Tobin makes everything difficult and as long as the numbers match at the end of the year, there is nothing anyone can do. Ferguson said as Treasurer she has to sign all the papers for the auditors and is responsible for the transactions. Zimmerman said that is where she is wrong; a secretary-treasurer only does a job, the Board is responsible for the money.
- ♦ After discussion, Zimmerman directed Ferguson to use the figures she projected for 2005 actual expenses as the 2006 budget amounts instead of going over the expense items line by line. The Board budgeted only the following items individually:

Fire Companies - \$10,000 for each	Storm Sewers - \$2,000
Insurance - increase of \$6,000	Street Lighting - \$3,500
Line Striping - \$8,000	Interest Income - decreased to \$42,000
- ♦ The Board directed Ferguson to put the remaining amount to balance the budget in the Capital purchases line item.

ADJOURNMENT - At 8:20 PM Tobin moved to adjourn the meeting. Zimmerman seconded the motion and all were in favor; motion carried 4 to 0 and meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ferguson, Secretary / Treasurer

Minutes approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 14, 2005.

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