

## BUDGET WORK SESSION

November 6, 2009

A Budget Work Session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA at 9:00 AM for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2010 Preliminary Budget. Chairman Joseph J. Palmer was present with Supervisors Brian W. Young, Anthony F. Greco, William L. McKernan III, and Adam D. Zucker, and Supervisor-elect Frederick Conner. Township Manager Phyllis C. Lieberman, Assistant Township Manager/Township Engineer Roman M. Pronczak, Director of Finance John Marcarelli, Police Chief Mark A. Smith, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, and Director of Park & Recreation Kurt W. Baker were also present.

Mr. Marcarelli summarized three possible budget scenarios, with the first scenario being an update to the originally proposed budget and includes previously discussed adjustments and a reevaluation of year-end revenue and expenditure projections. The third scenario shows the cuts that would be necessary to achieve the goal of no tax increase and no depletion of the available fund balance. The second scenario included less severe budget cuts and a modest tax increase. Mr. Marcarelli summarized what impact the cuts would have on services provided by the Township and department heads provided additional information as necessary. Mr. Marcarelli distributed a summary of salaries for those employees who are not covered by collective bargaining agreements and discussed what impact on the budget various percent increases would have. Mrs. Lieberman discussed potential savings that could be realized if the indemnity health plan was eliminated.

Discussions then focused on what can be done to increase revenues without significantly increasing real estate taxes. Mr. Zucker asked the staff to look into the legality of raising the deed transfer tax. Mrs. Lieberman replied that the amount of the deed transfer tax is limited by the Second Class Township Code, but indicated that this would be discussed with the Township Solicitor. Mr. Palmer asked that alternatives to a mercantile tax in the form of user fees also be considered.

After additional discussions, township staff was directed to reevaluate the proposed budget and make necessary revisions prior to the next budget meeting which will be scheduled for 9:00 am on November . The revised budget is to be based on the following guidelines: 1) Minimum fund balance of 15% of appropriations must be maintained. 2) A zero percent salary increase for employees not otherwise covered by agreements. 3) A real estate tax increase of 0.72 mills is to be included in calculating 2010 revenues, with the stipulation that no additional increase will be considered for the four years following. The Supervisors confirmed that the continuing contributions of \$30,000 to the WRA and \$5,000 to Whitpain Football Association are to remain in the next budget draft.

The Supervisors also agreed that the budget should be revised based on elimination of the indemnity health plan. Supervisor-elect Conner stated that he will not be accepting the Township health plan and Mr. Marcarelli stated that he will amend the line item to reduce that expenditure.

At approximately 11:10 AM the Budget Work Session was adjourned.

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Roman M. Pronczak, P.E.  
Whitpain Township Engineer/  
Assistant Township Manager