

## BUDGET WORK SESSION

November 23, 2009

A Budget Work Session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, November 23, 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 Anthony F. Greco, Brian W. Young and Adam D. Zucker, and Supervisor-elect Frederick Conner. Township Manager Phyllis C. Lieberman, Assistant Township Manager/Township Engineer Roman M. Pronczak, Police Chief Mark A. Smith, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, and Director of Park & Recreation Kurt W. Baker were also present. Director of Finance John Marcarelli and Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew were absent.

Mr. Pronczak distributed a General Fund summary that was prepared by Mr. Marcarelli and which includes budget cuts and adjustments that have been discussed to this point. The document illustrates that a 1.07 mill tax increase in 2010 would result in a positive annual change in the fund balance during the entire five year budget cycle. The tax increase would also provide fund balances in excess of the desired minimum, which has previously been established as fifteen percent of annual appropriations.

Mr. Conner expressed concerns with such a significant onetime tax increase to basically maintain the status quo or current levels of service, especially in current economic conditions. Mr. Conner indicated that his preference would be to focus on what services and programs are being provided and to evaluate what can be done to provide these services more efficiently.

Mr. Palmer provided an update on recent discussions with the Centre Square Fire Company regarding staffing levels and organizational structure. He indicated that it appears that current staffing levels must be maintained to provide acceptable response times. Additionally, options for supervision of career firefighters are being considered.

Mr. Palmer also discussed proposals that have been received for professional services related to improved communication and public relations. The project would involve updating the Township's website, developing a database of email addresses, and providing weekly or bi-weekly emails with key information. The cost of the project would range from \$18,000 to \$30,000 depending of the scope of work the consultant would be authorized to perform. The Supervisors were in agreement that this is a worthwhile project.

The Supervisors determined that another budget meeting during the week of December would be necessary.

At approximately 11:15 am the Budget Work Session was adjourned.

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