

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005**

A Special Budget meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, November 14, 2005. Mr. Fazzalore called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. noting the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 2006 Budget.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors: Scott Fegley, Vice-Chairman (absent)
Grace Godshalk, Secretary/Treasurer
Steve Santarsiero, Supervisor
Frank Fazzalore, Supervisor
Pete Stainthorpe, Chairman

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
Heidi Sheridan, Finance Director

Mr. Fedorchak stated the Township has reached a tentative agreement with the Public Works Department employees for health benefits. He stated the agreement includes an increase in the insurance co-pay. Mr. Santarsiero asked when the contract expires. Mr. Fedorchak stated in a few years. He said he wanted to coincide contract negotiations with the Police and Public Works contracts. Mr. Fedorchak said he would transfer \$100,000 from the General Fund.

Mr. Fedorchak stated he proposes increasing the leaf pickup fee from \$25 to \$35 per household, which will only cover the actual cost of leaf collection. Mrs. Godshalk noted that she thought the Township might save money this year because the Township may only do one leaf pickup because of the late start. Mr. Fazzalore stated the increase to \$35 is a big increase in one year and said the increase should only go up to \$30.

The Board discussed how to balance the 2006 budget so as to only raise taxes by one to two mils. Mr. Fedorchak stated he could take \$150,000 from Liquid Fuels to pay for the Public Works salaries. Mr. Stainthorpe stated a one-mil increase should be the maximum and reserves should only be 8% to 12%. He suggested cutting the budget somewhere to increase the taxes by only one mil. Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Township might want to cut hiring one police officer this year to reduce the budget. He stated he would like to go over the individual department budgets to see why there are increases.

DEBT SERVICE

Ms. Sheridan stated the increase in Debt Service is a result of money the Township borrowed at the end of 2004 and the first payment is not due until June 2006. She stated the Township also allows a cushion for the interest rate on the loan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Mr. Fedorchak stated he reduced the Fire Department budget last year by 10% and transferred money from the Fire Department into the General Fund, making up for that last year. Mr. Stainthorpe noted that Fire Inspection fees drop from 2005 to 2006 and asked why. Mr. Fedorchak stated the Fire Inspection program is a new program and the inspectors are still trying to locate all of the businesses to inspect.

Mr. Stainthorpe asked what is the Yardley-Makefield Relief Association? Ms. Sheridan stated that fund comes from the state and goes through the Township and is paid to both fire companies. Mrs. Godshalk asked to see the Fire Department's budget. Mr. Fazzalore stated he has never seen a recap of the Fire Department's budget. Mr. Fedorchak stated there are restrictions on how the Fire Department uses money from the state.

Mr. Fazzalore asked if the Township and the Fire Department use the same auditors. Ms. Sheridan replied no the Fire Department has an independent auditor. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he would like to see permits and fees increased across the board.

PARK & RECREATION

Mr. Fazzalore suggested moving the cost of the lights at Macclesfield from Park & Recreation to the General Fund. Mr. Fedorchak discussed the recent expenditures in Park & Recreation. Mr. Fazzalore also suggested taking money from Street Projects to widen the road at Macclesfield. Mr. Fedorchak proposed to also hold off hiring the additional person in Park & Recreation until April 2006 instead of January to save money.

Mr. Fazzalore asked what is the alarm fee. Ms. Sheridan stated there is an alarm registration fee and a fee if an individual or company's alarm goes off more than three times.

Mr. Fazzalore noted if Governor Rendell designates money for the senior center than the Township will have to come up with matching funds.

After reviewing the entire department budgets and making adjustments the Board agreed to a 1.8 mil increase. Mr. Fedorchak stated the budget numbers do not include the additional police officer right away noting that the officer's salaries will increase with time and the Township would need additional money in the budget to cover the new officer.

Mr. Fedorchak stated he would work on the budget to reduce the budget to only a 1.8 mil increase. He stated he will give the Board the budget changes and the Board would have the right to make changes to the budget within twenty days.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.