

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**
October 7, 2021, 5:30 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call

(x) Wenrich (x) Galbraith (x) Buckwash (x) Christensen () Decker

(x) Williams (via Zoom)

**Roadmaster Andy Gibb and Park/Rec Chairperson Terry Hoffman were also
In attendance.**

The meeting opened with a presentation from Cory Johnson, CPA/Partner with Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC, Certified Public Accountants who made a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Funding. He discussed details of his firm, their clients, what other services they offer and what entities they have helped with CARES Act Funding with no audit or compliance issues with DCED. Mr. Johnson said they are helping over 100 PA Townships and Borough's receiving \$50,000 up through \$100 million with ARPA funding. They offer trainings (virtual) throughout the entire grant program as often as Treasury updates its regulations which include eligible/ineligible uses of funds, documentation of compliance with regulations, reporting to the US Treasury and sharing of other funding streams to help achieve goals. This also allows for municipalities to share their ideas.

Mr. Johnson stated the Revenue Loss Calculation hasn't changed based on the Interim Rules, but they are waiting for the Final Rule. The first reporting period has changed from October 31, 2021, to April 30, 2022, and he is instructing municipalities to hold off on spending at this point. He noted that if you contract with them, they will sit down with the appointed township representative to do the report. He will also give out all the updated FAQ's when working with him in the process. Mr. Johnson noted that your Secretary or your Treasurer should be your authorized representative. That person will capture all the cumulative data throughout the process and complete the annual report. He stated that any interest on the funds is unrestricted.

Mr. Johnson shared some pieces of advice which included being cautious of spending of the funds, asking if it can be used as matching funds, and to run the lost revenue numbers. If the revenue was static, you will have a lost revenue calculation which is much less restricted where you could buy a truck, equipment, fix roads, etc. All funds should be calculated by using your 2019 base and multiplying it by 4.1% to 2020.

With the CARES Act, the negative economic impact, premium pay, and infrastructure were more restricted. A few of the things you can use these funds for are renovations to stay socially distanced, new equipment that would enable working remotely and anything you can document that it's due to COVID. For fire and police, the eligibility for police is more likely than fire. For police, can you tie COVID with any uptick in police activity/crime and apply a percentage to buy more police hours. For fire, they must be a 501.3.C, have had to lost revenue between 2019 and 2020 and they can't double dip from various townships.

Mr. Johnson stated the longer you wait, the more you will be able to get out of the funds. He said to look at the next three years for teleworking, renovations for social distancing, etc. and look at how much money you can free up that would be unrestricted.

STATE HIGHWAY BUDGET

Chairman Mark Wenrich opened the meeting after the presentation. There were no audience members present. The meeting began with Roadmaster Andy Gibb presenting his items to be considered for the State Highway Budget (and General Fund Budget which will be addressed at the next meeting).

Roadmaster Gibb presented quotes for openers for the three garage doors. Central State gave a price of \$2,685 installed. Leer would do the electrical work/breakers for \$1,475. A Stone/Landscape Rake was also discussed at the cost of \$1,018. This would be for the stone parking lots, dirt roads and the woods. Supervisor Buckwash stated he has one he would be willing to sell to the Township.

Roadmaster Gibb talked about the 2005 Freightliner truck. He said Seibert's would sandblast and paint it for \$8,900 or \$8,325 using a lesser urethane. Andy said the frame seems good and it's structurally sound. He mentioned another person who gave him a verbal price of \$2,000 and he would paint everything, chassis, frame, and bed for that price. The only problem was that he would like to do it in the winter, but Andy needs it in the winter. Andy said he was told aluminum is still the best priced. MJR quoted a Replacement Body/Bed for the truck for \$28,920.

Roadmaster Gibb stated a Tar Bucket is still needed and they are not easy to rent. He suggested budgeting more but hopefully being able to find one for less. Supervisor Christensen asked Andy if he ever got the Tar Bucket that was previously discussed, and Andy said he didn't because we were the low bidder. Discussion was held on renting vs. buying. Andy said the estimate to buy one may be \$17,000-\$20,000. Chairman Wenrich suggested budgeting \$7,500 and seeing if that can be added to the State Highway budget or General Fund budget.

He said Messick's quoted \$17,278 for a new Alamo Exten-A-Kut II Ditch Bank Mower/Road Mower or \$22,258 for an Alamo Rear Mount Boom Mower for \$22,258. Diamond had two also; one for \$33,000 and the other one has its own engine, arm and boom and is \$99,000. This one would be more versatile. It would eliminate all the hand trimming of trees. The price to rent one is \$6,000 per month. Chairman Wenrich told Andy to look at one of the Alamo pieces of equipment. Andy suggested budgeting \$35,000. The Stephenson quote was also discussed.

Roadmaster Gibb stated a Chipper is approximately \$50,000 to buy and they are also hard to rent. The township did receive approximately \$3,300 from a Recycling Grant which was intended to be used towards a Chipper. Andy said he will check Muncibid. Used Boom Mowers can be found on Muncibid too. Discussion was held on where equipment would be stored.

Road work and paving vs. tar/chip was discussed and Roadmaster Gibb stated he would like to finish paving both ends of County Line Rd., Stone Head Rd. from Western Rd. to Coffeetown Rd., Union Church Rd. and Franklinton Rd. Chairman Wenrich said he'd like to get through the

General Fund Budget first before committing to funds for the roads. Supervisor Christensen asked when are we going to start paving these roads. It was noted to look at the difference in State Highway Aid in 2020 vs. 2022 and using 2019 as the base, calculate the revenue loss for the State Highway fund.

Roadmaster Gibb explained the map and information that he made up for the Parks & Recreation Committee. Discussion was held on approximately how long it would take to complete this, stone tonnage or contracting with someone to do it.

The **State Highway Budget** was reviewed. Treasurer Williams stated that there was a slight increase in interest amounts due to moving monies from M&T to F&M. She confirmed the amount of state aid in Liquid Fuels is \$215,368.56. Discussion was held that this should be used towards our lost revenue calculations regarding ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The remaining income lines for the 2022 budget were reviewed and remained the same as the 2021 budget.

For expense line 433.24, Road/Street Signs and Posts, the amount was increased from \$1,300 to \$2500 for 2022. Line 438.22, Stone, was decreased from \$5,000 to \$3,800 for 2022. Line 439.61, Construction Projects, was increased to \$12,580.18 for 2022. The Net Income after going through the budget by line item was added to this line.

The next budget meetings were set for Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 6:00 PM and the following one for Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 6:00 PM

Chairman Wenrich also stated he would like a copy of the existing Fee Schedule given to BCO Land & Sea Services and ZO Jeff Gardner and would like a Fee Schedule meeting scheduled to review and get clarifications on some items in the schedule. Chairman Wenrich asked why there is a Certificate of Occupancy issued for a pool.

The **Parks & Recreation (P&R) Budget** was reviewed. Discussion was held on the expansion of the walking trail and the question was asked how much money is left in the Parks & Recreation Budget comparing Actual vs. Budget 2021.

Discussion was again held on why if expenditures are within the P&R budget why is it necessary for the Chairperson to ask the BOS to spend the money. The question was asked if the money allotted to P&R had been transferred yet and Treasurer Williams confirmed it had. Concerning the trail, it would have to be confirmed with Roadmaster Gibb when the road crew would be available to do the work. Discussion ensued on whether the funds for stone should be spent all at once vs. ordering stone multiple times. Also, discussion was held on if American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) could be used for this project.

P&R Chairperson Terry Hoffman presented the projects the P&R committee would like to see considered for the 2022 budget. Terry discussed six stations they would like to place around the walking path at a cost of \$6,911 and stated they would be geared towards older/elderly people. Along with that, she added a workout area/station for kids near the flagpole at a cost of \$8,000. Terry presented the idea of a small playground at Ponderosa Park to incorporate the handicapped area and be more of a place where parents and kids could be together as a family. She viewed this project as making Ponderosa more family friendly and Century Lane Park more sports oriented since there are multiple sports fields there. Some other items mentioned were

Ground Cover, a Teacup Merry-Go-Round, a Handicapped Merry-Go-Round, and a Wheelchair accessible Monkey Bar. For smaller children, she mentioned a playhouse, slides, little mushroom, or ladybug play equipment; things that you could put a smaller child in without worrying about them falling out. She said there were four to five things they looked at depending on the prices; they looked at approximately \$10,000 for each area being discussed.

For the Ground Cover, this would be for a poured rubber which she stated the more you do, the cheaper it gets. Tiles, Rubber Mulch, or regular Mulch/Tanbark could be used. This idea would go towards making the parks more handicapped inclusive.

They'd like to look at putting birdhouses and benches along the trails and possibly doing a scavenger hunt and providing gift cards to the winners. She brought up the idea that they'd like to have a Free Library at both parks.

Concerning the Memorial Trees at the Ponderosa, some of the plaques are cracked or broken and some are missing. Terry mentioned checking with Roadmaster Gibb to find out what's the easiest way for the road crew to mow around the trees without hurting the plaques.

Other items mentioned for Century Lane Park was painting the handicapped signs and the roof.

Terry said they would like to see two parking spots put in at Harr's Crossing.

The question was asked if Hand Sanitizers for the parks could be bought with ARPA funds.

Terry could give input to Cory Johnson for the parks.

The General Fund budget is going to be reviewed prior to deciding if more funds can be moved from the General Fund to the Parks & Recreation Fund and placed in Capitol Improvements. If that is done, the Parks & Recreation committee would then have to prioritize projects with that number.

Supervisor Christensen gave the BOS an update on the recently installed Security System. The key fobs will need programmed and distributed. He then said a LowV representative would come in and talk to the BOS to explain the system.

A motion was made by Chairman Mark Wenrich to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM.

Second by Supervisor Dave Christensen

Discussion: There was no discussion.

The motion passed.

Pamela Williams

Pamela Williams-Treasurer/Asst. Secretary