

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 20, 2022 Budget Meeting

The budget meeting of the Hereford Township Board of Supervisors was held in person at the Municipal Building and via Zoom. Those present were Supervisors John Membrino, Keith Masemore, Karla Dexter, Secretary/Treasurer Diane Hollenbach, Hereford Fire Chief Josh Borowski, Hereford Assistant Chief Dean Marks, Hereford Fire Police Captain Harold P. Albitz.

Mr. Membrino called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Ms. Hollenbach went through a power point presentation stating:

1. Hereford Township is financially healthy. Revenues exceed expenses and there is a healthy reserve.
2. All the American Rescue Fund Act money must be earmarked by 2024 and spent by 2026. The amount we have received is \$318,965.
3. The General Fund Checking balance at the end of 2022 should be \$400,000.
4. It is recommended that the Board move \$200,000 of that money into a short-term certificate of deposit at the beginning of 2023 earmarked for Camp Mensch Mill Road repairs. We are waiting on an estimate from the engineer for that repair.
5. 72% of the township revenue comes from taxes.
6. Earned Income Tax has increase 9.53% in 2022 over the same period in 2021.
7. The budget assumes a 95% collection rate on real estate taxes.
8. 55% of expenses is in the Highways, Roads, and Streets category.
9. We are paying the last year of the truck loan.

New Expenses for 2023

1. Printing and postage for four newsletters;
2. Replacement of the ten-year-old computer in the garage;
3. Increase to the Bally Ambulance donation from \$4590 to \$8500.;
4. 911 dispatch cost will increase by the CPI-u Northeast which was 7.3% in July;
5. \$10,000 for work on the Act 537 plan;
6. The cost of fuel, road paint, and road maintenance supplies has increased;
7. \$7,500 Co-op equipment budget;
8. Budget includes a \$15,000 equipment rental allowance for renting a bucket truck or lift for tree removal;
9. Salt has increased from \$59.64/ton to \$68.27/ton;
10. A 4% wage increase was agreed to for employees;
11. Approved a Co-op purchase of the asphalt zipper on a five-year lease with the first payment due in 2024 of \$17,733.73;
12. \$15,500 of ARPA money will be earmarked for codification of ordinances over a three-year period.

2023 Road Work

1. Road work is paid for from the state liquid fuel budget.
2. The following items were scheduled for 2023:
 - a. Base repair on Gun Club Road, Old Company Road, and Grouse Hill Road - \$60,000;
 - b. Double chip seal Gun Club Road - \$73,340;
 - c. Double chip seal Old Company Road - \$58,765;
 - d. Double chip seal Grouse Hill Road - \$77,112;
 - e. 1.5" wearing course Hert Lane - \$46,868.

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Discussion regarding support to the fire companies

1. Hereford Fire Company receives a municipal donation of \$17,340 from Hereford Township. No other municipalities support Hereford Fire Company.
2. Seisholtzville Fire Company receives municipal donations from Hereford Township, District Township, and Longswamp Township totaling \$37,877.75.
3. According to records received from Berks County from July 2021 to July 2022, Hereford Fire Co responded to 141 calls and Seisholtzville Fire Co responded to 72 calls.
4. Of the 1001 households (2020 Census number) in Hereford Township, Ms. Hollenbach would like to find out how many are serviced by each fire company and use that percentage to help determine the amount of support each fire company receives.
5. Chief Borowski stressed the ongoing issue of Hereford Fire Company having to cover calls when Seisholtzville Fire Company does not respond. There appeared to be over 40 such calls in the Seisholtzville coverage area from July 2021 to July 2022 that Hereford Fire Company responded to.
6. The Board of Supervisors took no action on the 2023 budget allocation to the fire companies.

Expenses requiring further discussion or information

1. Maintenance building roof is leaking in three places;
2. Support to the fire companies;
3. Purchase of a loader. If a loader is ordered today, is one available for delivery next year? A price is needed and then we can get a proposal from Municipal Leasing for a five-year lease purchase;
4. Double chip seal of Mulberry Lane - \$107,474. This exceeds the amount in the State Liquid Fuel Account. Should this be deferred until 2024 or paid using ARPA funds;
5. PSATS should provide a pension study of the long-term cost of increasing the pension multiplier and changing vesting from ten year all or nothing;
6. Contact the Recreation Committee for ideas for a project using some of the ARPA funds;
7. Develop a questionnaire for the next newsletter asking residents what types of recreation they are interested in;
8. Insurance renewals have not been received.

There being no further business, the budget meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Diane Hollenbach, Secretary/Treasurer