

TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023
5:00 P.M.

OPENING ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Those present were Committeeman Lovell, Deputy Mayor Meuse, and Mayor Jacksic.

Also present were DPW Supervisor Campbell, Chief Financial Officer Rolef, Township Auditor, Kucinski, Township Auditor Mooney and Municipal Clerk Shipps.

Budget Discussion

Attorney Kucinski reported that minor adjustments were made to the budget. The fund balance anticipated was decreased, the cell tower lease was increased and there was an increase in delinquent taxes. The 2023 budget has a 3-cent increase which is below the levy cap and appropriation cap. The total increase is \$74 dollars for the year for the average taxpayer or \$6.40 per month.

A new full-time employee was hired with no impact to taxes and it is not anticipated to take from the surplus for several years.

Chief Financial Officer Rolef stated that the budget also includes PILT (Payment in Lieu of taxes). Money which was received from Yards Creek. This money will be put directly into the fund balance. The Stillwater Hose Company contribution will be taken out of the operating budget.

CFO Rolef explained the new DPW employee salary will be split with 50% from Open Space and 50% from the operating budget. The employee anticipates waiving his health benefits which if approved by the committee will allow him up to \$5,000 in a benefit waiver.

The Capital Improvement Fund will be increased in order to build up a surplus for potential down payments needed for capital improvement projects in the future.

Discussion took place regarding utilization of surplus funds for the payment of accumulated sick and vacation payments that will be needed for any upcoming retiring employees.

Auditor Kucinski stated that a resolution would be required and can be made at a future meeting.

Introduction for the budget meeting will be held on April 5, 2023, at 7 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Lovell second by Meuse and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shipps, RMC