

**BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING  
Board of Commissioners  
Township of Haverford**

**November 16, 2015  
Monday – 7:00 p.m.  
Commissioners Meeting Room**

**1. Opening of Meeting – Mario A. Oliva opened the meeting.**

- A. Roll Call – 8 Commissioners were present at roll call: Commissioners D’Emilio, Hall, Siegel, Holmes, McGarrity, Wechsler, Connell and Oliva.**

**Commissioner Heilmann arrived at 7:12 p.m.**

**Also present were: Lawrence J. Gentile, Township Manager, Lori Widdop, Assistant Township Manager, Deputy Chief John Viola and Lt. Joseph Hagan, Aimee Cuthbertson, Finance Director and Richard Dougherty, Public Works Director.**

- B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Citizen’s Input – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – 20 Minutes**

**Registered Speakers**

**Gary Bogossian – 2410 Linden Drive**

**Mr. Bogossian spoke on the following topics:**

**Property Taxes are increasing despite cost cutting.  
The Police Department personnel needs to draw down  
Trash collection should be one time per week.**

**END OF REGISTERED SPEAKERS**

**Open Forum**

**Collette Bannan – 334 Sagamore Road**

**Mrs. Bannan is a member of the HPED and requests continued funding for economic development and also continued funding to Downtown Dynamics.**

**Brendan Goggan – President, HPED**

**Mr. Goggan commended the Board of Commissioners for putting together an Economic Development and on their commitment.**

**Responses by Mr. Gentile**

Mr. Gentile thanked all those that spoke tonight and corrected Mr. Bogossian on the percentage of taxes township residents pay overall and how much is the Police Department percentage is.

**3. Budget Hearing and Preliminary Adoption of Year 2016 Budget**

Motion made by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Siegel to adopt as an Ordinance a Preliminary General Fund, Sewer Fund and Capital Fund Budget, including all taxes, fees, service charges and other revenue sources provided within all funds for 2016.

**4. Presentation of Preliminary Budget by Lawrence Gentile, Township Manager**

Mr. Gentile began his presentation:

Each year he reviews the township's mission statement prior to preparing the preliminary budget. The township has met those goals.

The 2016 Preliminary is a sound plan:

The township will operate within the budget, continue with a broad range of community services that residents have come to enjoy, be green friendly and constantly keeping department spending under radar.

Currently, the township employees 184 full-time, 67 part-time and 150 summer/seasonal individuals. This is the lowest in the past 8 years. We continue to provide the highest quality services.

Mr. Gentile began his slide presentation.

**Revenues**

2015 - \$39,779,745

2016 - \$40,963,609

The projected increase in revenues is due to U & O's and construction permits.

**Expenditures – department line item details:**

First of all, contractual increases of 3.5% for non-uniform employees in each department.

Mr. Gentile has been working with Mr. McCans in preparing a new RFP for EMS. The contract with the University of Pennsylvania will expire November, 2016. Outsourcing has saved taxpayers \$380,000.

Fire – Please keep in mind that all five companies are 100% volunteer. There are between 200 and 250 volunteers. The township does subsidize each company \$63,000 per year. Please keep in mind when residents receive their annual membership request.

Skatium – Major improvements have been made.

Human Resources was downsized last year and reflects in this year's budget. This department is running very smoothly thanks to Karen Murphy and Jolene Nolan.

Information Technology – the township will be hiring one part-time employee to work specifically on communication – website, cable, facebook, twitter. They also will be monitoring new police officer body cameras.

Management consists of two: myself and my assistant. It is anticipated that legal expenditures in 2016 will be low.

Police Department currently has 70 sworn officers, 7 civilians and 4 part-time employees. There are also 61 seasonal crossing guards. This all remains unchanged.

Parks and Recreation currently has not changed. They have 34 full time and 4 part-time employees.

Public Works – fuel costs are down; as well as equipment purchases. Snow removal is somewhat higher; as well as street light repairs (due to hit and runs) and storm related damage.

### 2016 Initiatives

During the Spring, 92 street lights will be converted from sodium to LED. The township has 3,800 street lights. Over \$285,000 will be saved over 5 years.

Savings: there is a \$27,000 savings by moving yard waste to Mondays.

Reportings: a new trash truck is purchased each year through recycling grant money. Fuel costs are down.

Park Maintenance – fuel costs down.

**There will be no trash fee increase and the fee will remain at \$194.00.**

The Sewer Fund will remain the same this year.

| Revenue     | Expenses    |
|-------------|-------------|
| \$5,094,823 | \$5,094,823 |

**Commissioners began to ask questions and stated comments regarding street lights, what big items were cut in the budget, rentals at the CREC and also make a professional advertising video advertising such rental space for big companies, very good year for R/E transfer tax and an excellent police force that is proactive.**

**Mr. Gentile continued:**

**The township owns/maintains:**

- 36 ball fields
- 29 playgrounds
- 19 basketball courts
- 22 tennis courts
- 3 hockey courts
- 8 pavilions
- 1 dog park
- 2 beach volleyball courts
- 6 miles of trails (more coming)

**Cost Drivers - 2016**

- Wages will be up \$560,344 (contractual)
- Medical up \$74,954
- MMO up \$355,405
- Township insurance up \$34,615
- Debt Service up \$142,059

**Bond/Capital Purchases**

- Emergency Vehicles – 4
- Public Works Vehicles – 7
- Information Technology – major system
- Infrastructure
- Financing/Bond

**Park Improvements**

**TOTALLING: \$10,296,077**

**During 2016:**

**Municipal Services Building**

**Library renovations**

**Small Bond**

**Park Improvements (equipment, slides)**

**Goals:**

**Protect and maintain assets**

**Improve Welcoming areas into the township**

**Police/Fire/EMS**

**Roads and Infrastructure**

**Prepare RFP for EMS**

**Prepare grants for water issues**

**Update the Master Plan**

**END OF TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S PRESENTATION**

**Commissioner Discussions began:**

**Commissioners Holmes stated that the township has come very far. Excellent work by township staff. Everyone feels secure with the police department.**

**Commissioner Holmes stated that the continuation of an Economic Development Consultant is not in the budget and the board should accept the recommendations of Downtown Dynamics and the support of economic committee to include \$75,000 in the Community Development Department line item.**

**Commissioner Holmes will recommend to the board to pass the preliminary budget tonight. However, add to the budget \$75,000 for final approval in December.**

**Commissioner McGarrity requests that the Board add the \$75,000 to the "unfunded" pension plan.**

**Commissioner D'Emilio stated that everyone has a different opinion on the preliminary budget. He is concerned about the tax increase. The pension plan is an ongoing issue. He does not agree that the 2.9% increase will go up to 3.25% with an**

**additional \$75,000 added. The township is business friendly and his opinion is that the township needs to work on infrastructure and flooding issues. Commissioner McGarrity agrees with Commissioner D'Emilio.**

**Commissioner Hall stated that we need to invest in the business community, township buildings and the library.**

**Grant money was discussed.**

**Commissioner Oliva is interested in getting new business in the township. They need to be recruited.**

**\*\*\*Commissioner Holmes amended his initial motion to add \$75,000 to budget. Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.**

**Roll Called.**

**7 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners Hall, Siegel, Heilmann, Holmes, Wechsler, Connell and Oliva.**

**2 Commissioners voted No: Commissioners D'Emilio and McGarrity**

**5. Ordinance No. P 28-2015 Sewer Rental Charge (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

**Motion made by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Hall to adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. P28-2015 fixing the annual sewer rental or charge for each property connected to the sewer at \$4.70 per 1,000 of water consumed or used by said property. This amount will remain the same as in 2015.**

**Roll Called.**

**All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D'Emilio, Hall, Siegel, Heilmann, Holmes, McGarrity, Wechsler, Connell and Oliva.**

**6. Ordinance No. P 29-2015      Trash Fee (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

**Motion made by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Wechsler to adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. P 29-2015 fixing the Township of Haverford Trash Fee at \$194.00 per year.**

**Roll Called.**

**All 9 Commissioners voted Yes: Commissioners D’Emilio, Hall, Siegel, Heilmann, Holmes, McGarrity, Wechsler, Connell and Oliva.**

**7. All Commissioners agreed to adjourn.**