

Jim Thorpe Borough Council
November 2, 2022
Budget Work Session Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders and their families.

Roll Call of Members

Gregory Strubinger	Joanne Klitsch-absent	Jay Miller
Michael Yeastedt	Bob Schaninger-left @ 7:40	Jessica Crowley-absent
Michael Rivkin	Solicitor Nanovic-absent	Borough Engineer-absent
Police Chief Schatz-absent	Borough Manager Sterner	Secretary Brooke Klotz
Public Service Mgr-absent	Mayor Sofranko- arrived at 7:47	

Public Comment

None

Proposed 2023 Budget

Borough Council started discussions with the Water Budget. New Public Service Manager Bolesky met with two Water Department employees on Monday. There has been only one Water Department employee working since Tuesday as the remaining two have been out sick. Due to this, he was unable to get much detailed feedback from them. Based on what he looked at and was able to find, he wrote down his list of concerns with the Water Department. He does believe that the Water Department needs an extra employee.

The biggest concern is that the water plant operator will be retiring mid-November and there will be no licensed operator running the plant.

Jay Miller is concerned about the SCADA system. He believes that this needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

The 7% increase would amount to approximately \$90,000.00. Greg Strubinger asked when was the last time there was a water increase. Manager Sterner said she would have to research to find out. This will help cover a new Water Department employee and the SCADA system. There won't be enough money left over for much else. No money will be going into the Capital Reserve Fund. Manager Sterner explained that any money budgeted that isn't used gets put in the Capital Reserve Fund.

There were discussions about the importance of budgeting for repairing well 4.

Jay Miller would like to meet with the new Public Service Manager, the Water department, Manager Sterner, and the Treasurer to discuss what equipment and repairs are the top priority to be purchased.

The last time the water meters were replaced was in 2010. They have a lifespan of approximately 20 years. The Borough should consider putting money aside in the future towards the purchase of new meters.

Council recommended going with Draft 1.

It was brought up that the new Public Service Manager does not have his own work vehicle. The old Public Service Manager used to use one of the Water Department trucks. Council asked if there was a police vehicle not being used, and if so, have the new Public Service Manager use that.

Council moved on to discussing the General fund. A third draft was made. On this draft, police professional services-line painting was reduced by \$5,000.00. The money budgeted for a new ice machine was taken out. Additional money was put into Zoning Code Enforcement. Other highway care and tree work was taken out of this draft. The transfer to the Special Revenue Fund was adjusted.

The grant for the Asa Packer Mansion that the Borough applied for has not been awarded yet. The items in the budget are ones that it needs for insurance, maintenance, and upkeep.

Lehigh Ambulance Association sent a letter to Borough Council requesting additional funding. It was mentioned that they do not pay water and sewer. Jay Miller asked that an additional \$500.00 be given to them on top of what the Borough already donates. Mayor Sofranko asked why they don't raise their second party billing. Mike Yeastedt explained they cannot due to federal regulations. The federal government regulates Medicare and Medicaid. Manager Sterner said she can pull \$500.00 from the Miscellaneous Expense line and put that towards the Ambulance Association donation. Penn Forest Township is the only other municipality that donates money to them.

Borough Council agreed with all the proposed budgets. These budgets include a 1.2 mil tax increase and a 7% increase to water billing.

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, seconded by Michael Rivkin to **adjourn the meeting**. There were no comments. Motion carries 4-0. The meeting ended at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Borough Secretary