

## BUDGET WORK SESSION

November 5, 2015

A Budget Work Session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2016 Budget. Chairman Frederick R. Conner, Jr. was present with Supervisors Adam D. Zucker, Anthony F. Greco and Melissa M. Weber. Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Director of Finance Christine M. Bauman, Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Director of Parks & Recreation Kurt W. Baker, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Assistant Finance Director Kellen Jarrett, and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale were also present. Members of the Centre Square Fire Company including President Rich Moser, Chief Lee Miller, and Treasurer Tom Kozeniewski were also in attendance. Supervisor Kenneth F. Wollman were absent, although Mr. Wollman joined remotely. There were no members of the public present.

Township Manager Roman Pronczak began the presentation noting that today's topics include Fire Tax, Fire Hydrant and Fire Capital Funds, in addition to the Open Space and Manor House Funds.

Mr. Pronczak said the Fire Hydrant Fund is clear-cut, where we pay rental to the three water companies operating within the Township borders for fire hydrants, and the collected fire tax covers the rentals. We are billed for the number of fire hydrants within each utility's service area.

The .45 mills covering the Fire Tax and Fire Hydrant funds represents roughly 14% of the Township's millage, and equates to \$8.48/month on the average residential assessment. For that amount, traditional fire services include fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials response, emergency medical services, fire prevention, education and community outreach. Centre Square Fire Company covers 12.8 square miles of the Township, and responds to emergencies on the PA Turnpike. They also offer mutual aid to numerous municipalities, as needed. Our partnership with the CSFC is one of the most important and longest standing. Without the support of dedicated volunteers, costs for firefighting services would be massive.

The long-term Fire Capital Fund includes equipment purchases. The purchase of new fire apparatus will include a trade-in or outright sale of the current equipment.

The proposed new firehouse must be built to maintain the operational and organization needs of the CSFC without a tax increase, and be consistent with approved architecture designs for Centre Square Commons. As proposed, it would be located such that the new driveway connecting to Skippack Pike will align with the Kohl's driveway and would be signalized. Funding sources include a PEMA loan, contribution from the

Relief Association, construction reserves, contribution from the Township and compensation for the land on which the new driveway will be located. Other potential sources include bank loans, state grants, fundraising and Township contributions.

The Open Space Fund includes 446 acres of active, passive and conservation open space. Major accomplishments incorporate the grand opening of Centre Square Park, the resurfacing of basketball and tennis courts and the hockey rink at Wentz Run, Stony Creek and West Side Parks. Parking lot improvements were made at Prophecy Creek Park and Stony Creek Sports Park. Work continued on various portions of the Township's Master Trails Plan. Planning continued on the Paws to Play Dog Park at Centre Square Park. There are four major revenue sources for the Open Space Fund. They include fees paid by developers, county and state grants, project-specific funds (including public/private partnerships) and Manor House Revenue.

The successful public/private partnership with Robert Fair Caterers helps to control the cost of maintenance at the Manor House, and enables a transfer of funds to the Open Space Fund. Rental fees are paid to the Township when an event is held at the Manor House.

Mr. Pronczak noted that the final Budget Work Session with a review of the Sewer Operating and Capital Funds is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Comments from the other presentations will be taken and it is anticipated that the Budget will be passed at the December 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. All supporting documentation on presentations to-date can be found on the Township's website.

Mr. Pronczak said additional comments on the Budget will be taken at the Board of Supervisors' meetings at 8 p.m. on November 17 and December 1.

At approximately 9:22 a.m. the Budget Work Session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Roman M. Pronczak, P.E.  
Township Manager