

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Budget Meeting November 21, 2015

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Saturday, November 21, 2015, at 9:00 AM, for a budget meeting. President McKown called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ryan Barton
Linda J. Book
Kathleen N. DePuy
Philip J. Lahr
Robert J. McKown
Glenn P. Nagy
William J. Veith
James F. Nowalk, Mayor

STAFF: James E. Leventry, Manager
Vincent G. Yevins, Finance Director
Courtney M. Wertz, Administrative Assistant
Donald R. Dolfi, Chief of Police
Keith P. Henderson, Deputy Chief of Police

Mr. McKown provided a quick recap from the previous budget meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

2015 Budget - \$2,743,959.00
2016 Proposed Budget - \$2,705,964.00

The salaries in this budget are contractual. The line item – Salaries/Patrolmen – increased due to an expected retirement buyout and the hiring of a new officer. The line item – Capital Outlay – decreased to \$36,000 as only one car will be purchased on the new three year replacement cycle. The line item – K-9 Expenses – remained the same. A grant application has been made for a new K-9 officer but the outcome will not be known until February 2016. The department is exploring the creation of a Facebook page, which would be a no cost item. New computer system upgrades are being explored. There will be nothing budgeted in 2016 but it will be an expensive proposition in the future. The line item – Gasoline – decreased to \$45,000 and is based on the average usage in 2014 and 2015.

INSURANCE & BENEFITS:

2015 Budget - \$2,009,397.00
2016 Proposed Budget - \$2,014,847.00

The line item – Hospitalization – increased to \$693,000.00 due to an increase of 20% for the Police Plan and a shift to a higher deductible plan. The Laborer’s plan will increase 8-10% as usual. The pension contributions decreased by over \$100,000.00 as the plans have started to level out.

LIQUID FUELS FUND:

2015 Budget - \$298,430.00
2016 Proposed Budget - \$350,703.00

This budget reflects the funds the Borough receives under the Liquid Fuels program. The figures are set by the State. The line item – Traffic Signal Maintenance – increased due to LED conversions. Rates for Road Salt are lower so the budgeted line item of \$215,703.00 will likely not be spent in full. Historically the Borough has received more than the amount set by the state. There is a possibility of being able to increase the Street Resurfacing budget.

SANITARY SEWER FUND:

2015 Budget - \$4,792,576.00
2016 Proposed Budget - \$5,454,638.00

Mr. Yevins budgeted this fund to be revenue neutral. His numbers are based on a lower multiplier of 58%. This was done in response to ALCOSAN’s 11% rate increase for 2016. Council agreed to lower the multiplier from 75% to 58%. A number of large projects are slated to begin in 2016 which should deplete the fund balance somewhat.

STORMSEWER FUND

2015 Budget: \$600,800.00
2016 Proposed Budget - \$2,979,800.00

Revenues are projected to be \$650,00.00 for 2015. The line item – Norwin Storm Sewer – will carry over into 2016. The line item – Other Financing Sources – is budgeted for \$3,500,00.00 for 2016 to cover the cost of large scale projects like the Doverdell Storm Sewer Project. The line item – Doverdell Storm Sewer Project – is budgeted at \$1,966,800.00. The line item – Loan Payment P & I – reflects the hypothetical cost of borrowing \$3.5 million for 10 years at 3.19% for 8 months assuming financing won’t be completed until March of 2016. Borrowing will be discussed at a time when more factors are known.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

2015 Budget - \$337,700.00

2016 Proposed Budget - \$143,000.00

The line item – Capital Appropriation – Fire Equipment – was moved to the Debt Service Fund for 2016. The largest line item – Pool Retaining Wall – is budgeted at \$90,000.00. Council agreed to increase the line item – Parks Project – from \$0.00 to \$50,000.00 as part of the 5 Year Parks Plan. The line item – Emergency Management – was moved to the Emergency Management Fund.

DEBT SERVICE

2015 Budget - \$526,662.00

2016 Proposed Budget - \$421,862.00

The line item – Capital Appropriation – Fire Equipment – was moved to the Debt Service Fund from the Capital Projects Fund.

Council recessed to an Executive Session at 11:30 AM.

Reconvened at 12:25 PM.

Salaries and personnel issues were discussed during the executive session. Most salaries were increased by 3%. The salaries of the seasonal employees at public works, the swimming pool and those that are part of the recreation program will remain the same.

M-1 Mr. Barton moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to approve the salary adjustments. The motion carried unanimously.

The dispatchers have asked to align their vacation days with those of the police officers as per the latest police contract.

M-2 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to align the vacation days of the dispatchers with that of police officers per the latest police contract. The motion carried unanimously.

M-3 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book to increase the non-union Administration employees' health insurance contribution to 1.5% of their salary. The motion carried unanimously.

M-4 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to adjust the Administration department's life insurance benefits to \$150,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

M-5 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

President McKown adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF DECEMBER 2, 2015.

Manager



