

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT 1983 BUDGET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1982

A Special Meeting/Public Hearing for the Adoption of the Final 1983 College Township Budget was called to order at 4:04 pm on Thursday, December 23, 1982 at the College Township Municipal Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald E. Bailey, J. Carroll Dean, Herbert W. Stewart,
Dolores A. Taricani, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gale L. Dargitz

OTHERS PRESENT: C. Thomas Lechner, Manager
Robert Hayden, Treasurer

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Reed McCormick

A letter to Council from Township Solicitor Reed McCormick had just been received regarding his opinion to the petition of Oak Hall's Grant and Liberty Street residents for the Township to accept their streets as public thoroughfares.

Discussion was postponed to the next regular Council meeting to give the members adequate time to review the contents of the letter.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Adoption of the Final 1983 Township Budget

In response to Council's lack of discussion on the 1983 Budget, Dean remarked that the proposed Budget had been discussed by Council at two previously held Public Hearings, and that the individual Council members had also examined the Budget's provisions separately. Moreover, as Bailey noted, the proposed Budget has not undergone any changes since it was last considered at the Public Hearing held on December 1st.

Township resident Chris Exarchos, in response to Taricani's call for public discussion, queried Council as to how long they could expect to maintain the Township's taxes at the new level. Taricani replied that the increase should have come sooner, and that the tax rate will depend upon future costs and the amount of revenues the proposed Act 511 Taxes might generate.

Dean moved that the Council adopt the 1983 Township Budget totalling \$704,863 and that concurrent approval be given for Resolution #85 -- fundamental authority for the Budget. Bailey seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

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2. Tax Rate for 1983

Manager Lechner next presented to Council Resolution #86 which fixes the Township Tax Rate for 1983. The total tax to be levied on Real Estate valuation will be up 9 mills (based on a \$.90 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation) to be broken down as follows:

Tax Rate for General Purposes:	5.50 mills
Tax Rate for Equipment Purposes:	1 mill
Tax Rate for Parks and Recreation Purposes:	2.50 mills

In addition, assessments will also be levied on the following:

Street Lighting:	\$.20 per front foot
Earned Income Taxes:	1/2 of 1%
Real Estate Transfer Tax:	1/2 of 1%
Occupational Privilege Tax:	\$5.00 per person per year

Bailey noted that the 3 mill increase over last year consists of an additional 2 1/2 mills for General Purposes; 1/2 mill for Parks and Recreation; and an extra \$.05 per front foot for Street Lighting.

No further discussion ensued and Bailey moved and Stewart seconded that Council adopt Resolution #86 setting the tax rate for 1983. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dean then moved and Bailey seconded that the Public Hearing portion of the meeting be adjourned, The motion was carried unanimously, and the Special Meeting reconvened at 4:17 pm.

BUSINESS

B-1. Surety Bond on Penn Hills Development, Section V

Lechner presented to the Council members for their signature copies of the Surety Bond and drawings for Penn Hills Development, Section V. Conditional approval for the Bond had previously been given by Council, and Lechner assured the members that everything was in proper order.

Dean then moved and Bailey seconded that Council approve the Surety Bond for Penn Hills Development, Section V. The motion was carried unanimously and the requisite signatures were secured.

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B-2. Resolution to Borrow up to \$8,000.00 as temporary measure to assure cash flow pending reimbursement from PennDOT on Struble Road Intersection Traffic Signal Installation

Manager Lechner presented to Council Resolution #87 authorizing the Township to borrow up to \$8000 if necessary as a temporary measure to assure adequate cash flow pending reimbursement from PennDOT on the Struble Road Intersection traffic signal installation. (The Township has paid the contractor \$12,000 for his work on the traffic signal; 75% of that amount is to be reimbursed by PennDOT. Interim financial arrangements must be made pending that reimbursement to allow the Township to operate effectively.)

Stewart then mentioned the possibility of securing voluntary private contributions to help defray the costs of that installation; Lechner noted that he is working toward that end, that formulas have been developed and paper work completed, but that the active solicitation of contributions should await more tangible evidence of the traffic signal.

A motion was then made by Bailey and seconded by Dean that Council adopt Resolution #87 authorizing the Township to borrow not more than \$8000 for the purpose of assuring adequate cash flow pending reimbursement from PennDOT on the Struble Road Traffic Signal installation. The motion was carried unanimously and the necessary signatures were secured.

B-3. Signatures for Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT on Traffic Signals on Park Avenue and Fox Hollow Road (Bypass)

A resolution empowering the Chairman to sign this Maintenance Agreement had been approved at the December 9th Council Meeting. No further approval was necessary, and Chairman Taricani signed the requisited forms.

B-4. Police Contract Discussion

Manager Lechner informed Council that he had just received a copy of the proposed 1983 Police Services Contract from the State College Borough. He noted that while the Contract has not yet been finalized, several changes have been made from this year's contract in regard to the procedure for establishing succeeding contracts. In addition, the proposed 1983 contract permits discussion during the covered year on such items as a change in the number of contracted hours and for an assessment of extra fees to cover unforeseen costs.

Taricani then noted her discomfort with the Borough's statements that the Township has not been paying its full share of the costs for its police services. If the Borough is indeed bearing an undue financial burden, then perhaps the possibility of establishing a regional police force should be explored. Taricani is not critical of the Borough or its pronouncements -- she believes the police services the Borough provides to be excellent -- but she feels the Township should pursue its goal of furnishing the best services the area can afford.

Dean opined that since many municipalities have a highly vested interest in maintaining an autonomous and individual police force, the idea of a regional police force would not be universally endorsed. Although he does not see the need for a regional police force at the present time, he could support that idea should it later be developed. He also noted that if the Borough is bearing any undue costs for its provision of police services to College Township, and he is not sure it is, it is because of the Borough's own cost accounting procedures, and not through any fault of the Township itself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 29, 1982 at 7:00 pm to consider four separate items. (See Minutes of December 9, 1982 for details.)

On Monday, January 3, 1983 at 8:00 pm Council will hold its annual Organizational Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of Act 511 Taxes

Since the Council members had just received their copies of model ordinances for the proposed Act 511 Taxes, prepared by Township Solicitor Reed McCormick, full discussion of these taxes were postponed to the first regular Council meeting in January. Members will study the proposed ordinances separately and will get back to Lechner with their individual feedback and suggestions.

Lechner next outlined to Council his projections on the amount of revenue that might be generated by each of the proposed Act 511 Taxes. They were as follows:

Amusement Device Tax (\$50 per device) -- \$2750

Cable TV Franchise Fee (3% of total customer billing or \$2.79 per household)
-- \$4700

Mercantile Tax (3/4 mill on retail gross sales; 1/2 mill on wholesale sales)
-- roughly \$40,000 per full year

If enacted the first quarter of 1983, approximately \$20,000 would be anticipated since quarterly collections would follow one month later. Lechner estimated that costs of the Mercantile Tax collection should not exceed 5% of the gross revenues and also noted that the majority of Municipalities with large shopping malls have instituted a similar tax.

On behalf of Council, Taricani commended Lechner for his thorough preparation of the model Act 511 Tax Ordinances. She reiterated that Council will again discuss these Ordinances at the first regular meeting in January, and that a Public Hearing on these proposed taxes will be scheduled at a later date.

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ADJOURNMENT

Dean moved and Bailey seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 4:55 pm.
The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Thomas Lechner
Secretary

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