

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1983

A second regular monthly meeting of the College Township Council was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Dargitz at the College Township Municipal Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Bailey; Gale Dargitz, Chairman; J. Carroll Dean; Herbert Stewart; Dolores Taricani

OTHERS PRESENT: C. Thomas Lechner, Manager; Art Beward, Zoning Officer

BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Approval for Manager to Solicit Bids for Capital Expenditures

It was moved by Dean and seconded by Stewart that Council authorize the Township Manager to solicit bids for the Asphalt Kettle and Dump Truck, the expenditures of which had been approved in the 1983 Budget. There was no discussion and the motion was carried unanimously.

2. Nominations for Replacement to Environmental Advisory Council

At the last regular meeting on January 13, 1983, Council accepted the resignation of Robert Shipman from the Environmental Advisory Council, and commenced discussion on finding a suitable replacement.

A nomination had been received from John Olivero, of the Township Zoning Hearing Board, proposing George Beatty for the position but Council action was postponed to the present meeting to give the members adequate time to consider all possibilities.

Dean said that while he is impressed with Beatty's qualifications, he is concerned that Beatty had not come forth earlier to volunteer his services, unlike many other Township residents. He would not like to overlook any resident who had been volunteering for municipal duty on a consistent basis.

Taricani replied that she had been informed that Beatty had not received the original survey; her only concern is that, because of his strong environmental background, he might feel that he, or the EAC, could do more than they could rightfully do.

Dean remarked that he, too, had had such concerns, but they have since been dispelled.

Taricani then moved that George Beatty be appointed to the Environmental Advisory Council. Bailey seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

3. Police contract discussion

Manager Lechner outlined to Council some new developments regarding College

Township's contract negotiations with the State College Borough for police services.

In a letter from Borough Police Chief Elwood Williams, dated January 19, 1983, the Township was informed that, as a result of actions taken at a special Borough Council meeting, the final 1983 Police Budget has been modified from the previously stated amount. These changes, which increase the total Police Budget by \$39,000 and College Township's share by \$3700, are:

1. Instead of deducting from the Budget a \$45,000 Federal Highway Safety Grant, nothing was deducted this year, thereby increasing the Police Budget for conventional purposes by that same amount.
2. Conversely, in response to Lechner's protest over unstated overhead, the deduction for the Special School Police was increased from \$35,000 to \$41,000.

In short, a total of \$165,850 had been allotted for police services in the Township's Budget; the Borough is now proposing the Township's share to be \$169,535.

To Dean's question on whether the previous amount had been considered a firm offer, Lechner replied that although he, too, was surprised at the increase at this late date, a proviso had been included in the negotiations allowing for a change in the Budget up to its final adoption. Lechner added that he had asked the Borough for several editorial changes to the budget (for the protection of both parties, upon the advice of the Township Solicitor), but has received no response from the Borough to date. Also, the issue of establishing the computational formula for the 1984 and 1985 contracts is still to be addressed. He feels that many of these problems stem from a "slanted" report prepared by the Borough Finance Officer for the Council President, which asserts that the Borough has been subsidizing the contracting Townships.

POLICE CONTRACT

Lechner then noted that he has been working with the Manager of Harris Township (which also contracts its police services from the Borough) as they share mutual interests in this matter. A memo has been received by Council from Harris Township expressing the latter's concerns over the contract negotiations.

The difficulty of establishing a formula that would be fair to all parties was next discussed by Council. Lechner mentioned that as a result of the contracting Townships, the Borough receives the advantage of a broadened service base; also, there is an inherent advantage to the Borough to having the police headquartered within its own municipality.

To Lechner's comment that "you can't measure equalities," Dean replied that one must assume that one hour of patrol time/investigative time/clerical support time would be equivalent whether in the Township or in the Borough. The formula for determining the Township's share of the Budget should really be quite straightforward, he stated; simply divide the total budget by the number of officers and multiply the result by the number of contracted hours.

Dargitz noted that the formula proposed by Dean is essentially the formula

presently in use. The disagreement is over whether to divide by the number of sworn officers or by the total number of people working in the police department. For 1983, the Borough has agreed to continue to calculate the Township's share using the total number of personnel as the dividend; 1984 and 1985 will be transition years during which the Borough will phase in its formula of using only the number of sworn officers as the common denominator.

Discussion then turned to the question of whether the Township should be charged for the budgeted amount for police services or for the amount actually spent by the Borough for providing these services. Both Dean and Dargitz opined, and Lechner concurred, that although, over a span of years there would probably be not much difference between the two amounts, it might be preferable to begin to be charged for those actual costs over or under the budgeted amount.

Returning to the problem of establishing an equitable formula, Lechner referred to the difficulty of extrapolating the proportioning overhead costs. Dean would be concerned only if the Borough were to add the cost of any non-police related items to the Budget; Dargitz remarked that the Township is not in the position to debate with the Borough over overhead costs. The Borough is providing a service; the Township can either avail itself of that service or not. The Township is not entering into a joint operation, it is only buying a contract operation. Taricani agreed, and stated that the Township's only demand should be an understanding of the method by which the Borough arrives at its calculations.

Lechner then mentioned that another meeting to discuss the police contract is tentatively scheduled for February 11, and that all three Harris Supervisors would be in attendance. He recommended that in addition to himself, the Council members also participate as representatives of the Township. Dargitz noted that he would participate, and summarized the Council's objectives for the meeting:

- 1. To determine whether the Township should use actual costs or budgeted costs, and
- 2. To request that College Township be charged for 1983 the previously agreed to budgeted costs of \$165,850.
- 4. Signatures of Spring Creek Estates, Phase IV

Upon being informed by Lechner that the Surety Bond for Spring Creek Estates, Phase IV had been satisfied, the requisite Council signatures were secured. (Conditional approval subject to the Surety Bond's acquisition had been given at a previous Council meeting.)

- 5. Adoption of Resolution #71B

It was moved by Taricani and seconded by Bailey that Council adopt Resolution #71B -- Guaranty of Loan by College Township for the Centre Area Transportation Authority from Central Counties Bank, and Consistent with the Terms of the Joint Articles of Agreement for Mass Transit System Acquisition and Operation of February 28, 1975; and, also Exhibit A -- the AGREEMENT between Central Counties Bank and the Township that implements the Resolution. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Application for Liquid Fuels Money

Manager Lechner presented to Council for the members' signatures (3) an application for County Aid for Liquid Fuels. This is a regular allocation, and for 1983 College Township's share will be \$3,500.

Lechner noted that the Township might be eligible for additional Liquid Fuels money due to the Township's support of the South Atherton Street/Branch Road traffic signal. He intends to seek the extra aid on the basis that the signal will be of benefit to persons in a wide-ranging area, and not just the residents of College Township.

7. Workshop on Sign Ordinance

A Public Hearing for consideration of a revised Sign Ordinance was held on December 29, 1982. At this hearing, it was discovered that several items in the proposed Ordinance had either been overlooked or merited further examination. As a result, then-Chairman Taricani (who has been involved in the revision process for "much too long") requested the recommendations of Township Zoning Officer Art Beward. Taricani reviewed his suggestions, agreeing with many, disagreeing with some, and redrafted portions of the proposed Ordinance. Further input on aspects of the Ordinance was received via correspondence from Donald McCormick of the Township Zoning Hearing Board.

At the workshop held this afternoon, Taricani reviewed the disputed items with Council, outlined her recommendations, and incorporated Council's feedback into the revised draft. (A complete copy of the revised Ordinance is attached.)

Because of the changes to the proposed Ordinance, a new Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, March 10, 1983, at 7:30 pm at the College Township Municipal Building. The revised Sign Ordinance will also be readvertised in accordance with State regulations.

8. Dean Speaks to Kiwanis Club; Finance Committee

Dean informed Council that he delivered a 10-minute speech to the members of the Sunrise Kiwanis Club earlier this week. Asked to address some of the problems that are currently confronting College Township, Dean chose to expound upon two topics: the Township's level of services vs level of revenue vs level of taxes; and code problems, in particular those that address sociological problems, i.e. access for the handicapped.

Earlier that day, the Finance Committee had met and discussed penalties for late COG payments. In an attempt to encourage prompt payment, the COG members had previously agreed to set a penalty of 2% interest on late payments, retroactive to the beginning of the affected quarter, notwithstanding the fact that the bill does not become due until the fifth week of the quarter.

Unfortunately, College Township, which spearheaded the drive for penalties on late payments, became the first victim of its own ardor. Lechner is opposed to paying the penalty, however, as he feels that once a due date is established, you cannot go back and charge retroactive interest.

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Consensus of the Council was that the penalty be paid. Taricani noted that the Township had a moral commitment and should set an example; all were in accord that since the Township agreed to the penalty, it must pay the penalty.

Lechner suggested that perhaps a wording revision might be in order; he recommended the term "interest" be changed to read "penalty."

9. New Insurance Carrier: We're in Good Hands with Allstate!

Lechner informed Council that effective February 1, College Township will be underwritten by a new insurance carrier, Allstate. He stated that the new policy, which is an all-risk replacement policy, and raises the liability limits from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 with an additional \$1,000,000 blanket override against all liability claims, is much more advantageous to the Township than was the old policy under Nationwide which paid claims on net value (no longer on our side!). In fact, it was discovered that many of our assets were not covered under the old policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Taricani and seconded by Dean that Council adjourn at 5:35 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Thomas Lechner
Secretary

CFL:ss:key