

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Budget Work Session

November 5, 1984

4:00 pm

A budget work session of the College Township Council was held on November 5, 1984 at 4:00 pm in the College Township Municipal Building.

Members present: Gale Dargitz, Max Hartswick, Fred Smith, Herbert Stewart, Dolores Taricani - Chairman

Others present: Thomas Lechner - Manager
Beulah Houser - Administrative Assistant
Robert Hayden - Treasurer

Taricani called to order the work session at 4:00 pm. She began the discussion by stating that she felt there is no need for a tax increase and that a tax increase would not reflect the end of year balance.

Taricani presented her thoughts on specific accounts. She feels that Account 400.31 could perhaps be reduced by \$1000. Account 400.42, Conventions, could be reduced by \$1000 since Council decided not to attend the PSATS Convention. She expressed her support for Ordinance Codification, Account 400.46, but stated that the amount could be negotiated by perhaps \$1000. She stated she would not appropriate \$5000 to Contributions to Institutions, Account 400.52, because it is questionable at this time; nor would she appropriate \$10,150 to the installation of a computer until she had a proposal in hand that would show exactly how it is to be used. She recommended the reduction of wages by \$1600, four to five percent.

Taricani went on to say that she feels Account 410.45, Dog Enforcement, could be reduced by \$800. Under Account 430.74, she expresses some reservations to buying a blacktop saw which the Township can rent. Taricani stated that she has some serious reservations on the \$10,000 engineering fee for Orchard Road.

Taricani said she would reduce the \$19,000 budgeted for Parks & Recreation to \$10,000. She also stated that she would not be inclined to support dental insurance at this point. Taricani stated that by all of the above reductions, the budget could be reduced by \$44,000.

Taricani expressed her concern over year-end expenditures. Accounts noted were 409.72, 430.74, 437.14 and 439.45. She said she feels expenditures and would-be-expenditures are very high in the last two months of the year. She stated that it looks like the Township is spending money in these accounts because it is left at the end of the year. In totaling the above accounts, expenditures amount to \$63,283 for the last two months of the year.

Stewart expressed as his major concern the \$10,000 for the engineering fee for Orchard Road. He said he felt this should only be undertaken if the Township has a high excess of money. In regard to a Township vehicle, he feels that the Township should buy another one or compensate the Township Manager for using his

own vehicle; the latter being the most undesirable. Stewart expressed his disappointment in the amount of money allocated for libraries and also the location of the library. He also expressed disappointment in the price of \$350 for a picnic table. (Actually, \$350 represented two tables under the Parks & Recreation Committee report.)

Dargitz stated that he feels the \$3000 should be eliminated for Wages for Council. He also questioned the need for the Contingency Fund at the rate of 1 mill. He stated that a Contingency Fund is not provided for in the Township Code and that generally it is a bad practice to have a fund of money which has no purpose attached to it. Taxpayers have the right to go to court to attempt to surcharge Council and the Township for having their tax money in a fund with no purpose. This is why the Township Code does provide for an Equipment Fund or Capital Reserve Fund. He expressed his feeling that there is a risk involved with having a Contingency Fund and he feels that it is unnecessary to have a large amount of money unearmarked.

Lechner advised that one type of fund that the Township could use is a Permanent Improvement Fund which could be separated from the Road/Machinery Fund.

Hartswick stated that he feels the Township should go ahead with the repairs to the berm on Orchard Road and eliminate the engineering study at this time. Under Conventions, he also believes \$1000 could be eliminated because Council has not shown interest in attending the PSATS Convention. In regard to Dog Enforcement, Hartswick does not agree with the amount budgeted. In regard to the \$10,150 for Computers and Equipment, he would like to see more information on this subject before budgeting the money. He expressed his concern to the \$2000 decrease in the budget for heating due to the installation of the overhead doors.

Smith said that he feels the Orchard Road project needs to be postponed for at least a year until it is obvious to what the impact the By-pass will have. He questioned the increase in the cost for fire hydrants. Smith asked about the possibility of installing block heaters in the ^{VEHICLES PARKED IN THE} basement of the Township Building. He suggested regulating the heat to 50 degrees downstairs. Lechner informed Smith that he hesitated to do so because of people working down there.

Lechner addressed the engineering study on Orchard Road. He said that he would definitely wait to see what kind of impact the completion of the By-pass has on Orchard Road. One big question is "Should the Township close the road off after the opening of the By-pass?" Regardless of whether the road stays open or closed, there is still a tremendous stormwater problem.

Taricani directed the meeting to expenditures remaining for the current year (1984). The following are accounts specifically addressed and reasons behind the expenditures. Lechner stated that Account 409.72 is basically for the parking lot including ramps, lights, the walkway and signs. Account 430.21 includes the overhead doors and snow fence. Chairman Taricani asked Hayden to provide a breakdown of that specific account for the next meeting. Account 430.74 was designated as unappropriated. Account 438.14 is an adjustment of Account 437.14. Account 439.45 is for the traffic signal on Branch Road and the Yardal Road project.

In regard to Account 400.46, one of the Council members asked exactly what "Ordinance Codification" means. Dargitz explained that it is an index for referencing and points out ordinances that relate to one another, ones that conflict or duplicate one another. It would resemble a Township Code Book. Without

such a codification, it becomes almost impossible to keep track of and reference specific ordinances. Dargitz said that companies who put together these codifications usually do not negotiate their price. They simply look at the ordinance and decide how much work it will involve to do the job and set a price.

In regard to Account 403.74, computer proposal, Dargitz stated that at some time the Township will have to computerize this operation and he suggests they budget \$9000 for this purpose. Taricani suggested that \$8000 be put aside for the computer proposal.

In regard to Parks & Recreation, the present balance is \$11,909. Taricani recommended that this amount be allocated to Parks & Recreation and let the Parks & Recreation Committee decide what items they wish to initiate. Dargitz suggested that Lechner attempt to look at all the projects proposed by the Committee, do some cutting back and give the Committee the existing reserve. Next year, then, appropriate funds to accomplish more of the recommendations of the Committee.

Taricani stated that she feels the Manager should investigate Libraries and Parks & Recreation and prepare some sort of analysis for review at a later date.

Dargitz pointed out that the reason Parks & Recreation looks like it has increased tremendously is that for years the Township has not spent any money to improve our parks. He stated that if improvements had been made over the last ten years like they should have been, the amount would not be nearly as high this time.

Regarding a tax increase, Taricani asked Council members individually how they felt about it. Stewart and Hartswick indicated that they are against an increase; Dargitz said that his feeling depends on how the budget comes out; Smith said that he would not be totally opposed to an increase depending upon the magnitude of the increase and what the increase would be for. Taricani said that her feeling is similar to that of Smith. She indicated that she would not be totally opposed but if this increase is to be for libraries, it should be spelled out as that. She said she felt that the residents should be asked what their feeling would be if the increase would be specifically for libraries or Parks & Recreation.

Smith made a motion that Council forgo their compensation and review it next year at this time. Dargitz seconded the motion. Council members voted favorably, except Stewart who opposed the motion.

Taricani recommended to Lechner that he work out a plan to establish some sort of cash reserve fund, not necessarily a Contingency Fund, and present it to Council for their review and reaction.

Lechner advised Council that he feels the scheduled November 15 meeting (4:00 pm) should be used as an additional work session on the budget.

Taricani informed Council that she did not have an opportunity to obtain information on the proposed entrance rezoning of Harris Township's portion of Harris Acres. She asked Lechner to obtain information on the matter. Dargitz said that he felt a representative of Council should attend the Public Hearing to be held on November 7. Lechner advised that he plans to attend the hearing if at all possible. Taricani stated that she also will try to attend if she is in town that day.

(additional comments taken from tape - on back of sheet)

Smith asked Lechner what the status is of the traffic light work on Branch Road. Lechner stated that last Friday, November 2, power was installed and workers should be in the process of working out any problems.

The meeting adjourned at 5.50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

C Thomas Lechner
Secretary

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