

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minutes of Workshop Meeting held October 13, 2015

A workshop meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Chairman William B. Hawk, on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Supervisors present in addition to Mr. Hawk were: William C. Seeds, Sr., William L. Hornung, Gary A. Crissman, and Robin L. Lindsey.

Also in attendance was George Wolfe, Township Manager; Steve Stine, Township Solicitor, Mary Liz Dodaro and Jeff Carter, Meadowview Village HOA; Chief Jason Campbell, South Central EMS; and Watson Fisher, SWAN

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Seeds led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

No comments were provided.

**Board Member Comments**

Ms. Lindsey wanted to thank the Colonial Park Fire Company for their quick response on Monday in saving a life and assisting SCEMS.

Mr. Seeds noted that he wanted to thank everyone involved in the Sestercentennial Event in Linglestown.

Discussion with the Meadowview Village Homeowners  
Association regarding outstanding improvements within their development

Mr. Wolfe explained that members from the Meadowview Village Homeowners has requested time to address their concerns to the Board members.

Ms. Mary Liz Dodaro, explained that she is the secretary of the Meadowview Village Homeowners Association (MVHA). She noted that the Chairman, Jeff Carter is also present to answer any legal questions. Ms. Dodaro distributed a paper to provide background for what is occurring. She noted that she has not been able to get the developer, Cornerstone, to complete the roadway, noting that 40 homes are affected by this. She explained that the last home in that area was built 2.5 years ago and he left a drop of four inches from the driveway leading to the

roadway. She noted at one time there were ramps that helped cars access their driveway, but they have been worn away by the weather and people now bottom out their cars.

Ms. Dodaro noted that last year Cornerstone assured the MVHA that if they didn't get the roadway paved they would put the macadam ramps in. She noted that didn't occur so here we are up against another year with no macadam ramps. She noted that the MVHA has authorized out of its budget to pay for these macadam ramps. She noted that we should not have to do that. She explained that we are dealing with older people who are on a budget, as it is a 55+ community and it is coming out of the people's pockets. She noted that we would like to have Cornerstone complete what they are required to do and there is no reason for why they should not do it.

Ms. Dodaro noted that return emails from Cornerstone stopped for the MVHA over a year ago and we have contacted their legal office but they have not done anything. She noted that they are stumbling over the retaining wall. She noted that the MVHA does not want the retaining wall as we believe that the land is stable and she is scared to put it in but she is not present on behalf of Cornerstone, just telling you the MVHA is concerned that there will be more problems if the retaining wall is put in. She explained that, reading between the lines that is one of the reasons Cornerstone is not moving on putting in the final paving as they are trying to figure out how to deal with the retaining wall. She noted that the homes are built, and there is a very narrow area that is a driveway, so she is throwing that out as something else for the Board to consider to get them to move on this. She noted that many community members are present at the meeting and they are upset, and as a Board Member she gets calls all the time. She questioned who wants to hit the bottom of their car all the time just driving in their driveway. She noted that there is the bond that is out there and she questioned if the Board can call the bond. She noted that there is \$23,000 in the bond and we can't get Cornerstone to move on this. She noted as we go into another winter she would ask that the Board consider calling the bond because at this point, she feels that they have defaulted. She noted that the last home that was built in that area was in 2012 and here we are in 2015. She questioned how long we have to wait to get them to do something. She noted that the MVHA is very frustrated.

Mr. Hawk questioned if Cornerstone is still active in the development. Mr. Jeff Carter noted that Cornerstone is an active entity but practically speaking they set up particular entities

by development. He noted that this development is essentially complete and the only thing left for the developer to do for this entity's purpose is to finish the improvements which he suspects they are not motivated to do. He noted that we have legal counsel and we have done what we can to cajole and threaten them with legal action while that has its own problems for the community. He noted that the homeowners in this area are not going to want to bare the legal expenses. He noted that we are trying to explore all the avenues that we can to have a finished development. He noted that there are parking spaces that are part of the plan that need to put in.

Mr. Hawk noted that Cornerstone considers it a complete project. Mr. Carter noted as far as he knows and can tell their purpose in the development is finished. He noted that one or two lots have not been built but he believes that they have been sold by the developer.

Ms. Dodaro noted that all the lots have been sold and built with the exception of the new developer that came in but that is another issue. She noted that everything for this developer ceased in 2012 with the exception of finishing the roads and the paving and putting in the final plot plan which would include the changes from the sidewalk to the additional parking.

Mr. Hawk noted if they consider it complete their mindset is that there is no hurry and they look at it as, out of sight; out of mind. He noted that you are looking to the bond but there is an act that allows for an extension. He noted that Mr. Stine would be better served to address that. Mr. Stine explained that it is called the permit extension act but it covers more than permits, approvals and any contracts with the municipality. He noted that it was enacted in 2009 and made retroactive to 2008. He noted at that time, any approvals that were active which would include this Improvement Guarantee, essentially there was a tolling period so that the time period on the approval does not run. He noted that they are typically set up year-to-year so the running of that one-year period stopped as of 2009. He noted that the effect was to extend the improvement guarantee out to 2016. He noted that it extended it out seven years and once June of 2016 rolls around the tolling period stops. He noted that they would have one year to finish the improvements from 2016.

Mr. Hawk noted that it puts it to 2017.

Ms. Dodaro questioned the Board if they would like to live in a community like this. Mr. Carter noted that he had a conversation with Mr. Stine and he understands that there are certain legal realities but in addition to that the request to the Township is to put pressure on the

developer, the owner is Samuel Jaffe... Ms. Dodaro noted that it is a little unclear as it may be John Huenke who is the owner and Sam Juffe runs things. She noted that it is very hard to tell with Cornerstone.

Mr. Carter questioned if there are actions other than calling the bond that the MVHA can do.

Mr. Crissman noted that we can't do that. Mr. Carter questioned if there is anything beyond that that the Township can do by putting pressure on them or sending letters or if they have other projects in the area, because perhaps they are seeking approvals in other areas. He questioned if the Board is able to do something to help these folks between now and when you can call the guarantee.

Mr. Hawk noted that Cornerstone probably knows about the extension act so they know they have until 2017 to drag their feet.

Ms. Dodaro questioned if the Board could remove the retaining wall. She noted that they are not moving on this. She questioned if we have to wait another three years.

Mr. Seeds noted that we have sent letters in the past to try to get them to move on these things. He noted that we can't force it legally. Ms. Dodaro questioned if the Board would consider the MVHA request and Cornerstone's request as well to remove the requirement for the retaining wall which she believes is holding this up. She noted that she is really concerned with what will happen to that land back there when you start messing with it; it is stable and has been stable for ten years.

Mr. Seeds noted that you are asking for us to remove that requirement. He noted that we had our engineer look at it and he recommended against it.

Mr. Carter noted that there was an opinion that we submitted from Yingst Engineering and they indicated that the land was stable and did not need a retaining wall. He noted that he is trying to find a solution instead of waiting for 2.5 years or finding a way to enter into a costly lawsuit that might not be the best way to handle it. He questioned if the Township engineer can take a second look at whether or not it is a necessary element as it stands since the houses have been built. Mr. Seeds noted that we have been through that process. Mr. Carter questioned if that was at a public meeting or did he actually go out and take a look. He noted that he read the minutes but did not see the engineer's report and he was not sure if he visited the site and did a

more extensive analysis.

Mr. Wolfe noted that Steve Fleming would have been to the site and it was his opinion that the retaining wall, that is minor in nature, not talking about walls that are very long or very high, it was his opinion that it needed to be installed and his estimate of cost for the wall was around \$25,000. He noted that he was not talking significant construction efforts to install two very small retaining walls.

Mr. Crissman noted that Ms. Dodaro believes that if the issue was revisited, it may have an impact on the street, but there is no guarantee even if we were to revisit the issue and if the Board would make a different decision, there is no guarantee that you will reach your goal.

Mr. Carter noted that Mr. Wolfe said it would cost \$25,000 and the Improvement Guarantee is only \$23,000. Mr. Wolfe noted that the retaining wall is not part of the Improvement Guarantee, rather it is a plan requirement. He noted that the current amount in force for the Improvement Guarantee is \$91,881.15 that runs through July 7 of 2016 and by Mr. Stine's analysis there is another year after that in which the developer would have to act on it. He noted that the Township would have to consider the extension of the Improvement Guarantee next year which it will have to grant with a 10% increase. He noted at the time it becomes callable it would be worth \$100,000.

Mr. Crissman noted that he does not think that the retaining wall has anything to do with getting your problem solved. He noted that you want the road finished so cars are not damaged. He noted that he needs to bifurcate the issues and he questioned if it would be helpful, that you have identified the gentleman who is the CEO of Cornerstone. He questioned if you would have an address for him. He noted if you provide it to the Board, the Township could write a letter to ask them to complete the job that they have to do. He questioned if that would be some help.

Mr. Carter answered that it certainly would. Mr. Crissman noted that we are not in a position to have leverage to go against them if they have another project in the Township, but at least on behalf of the MVHA, we could write a letter asking the builder to complete the job. He noted that we have to yield to legal counsel but that is the best that we can offer. He noted that he is only one opinion and he does not know how his fellow board members feel. Mr. Seeds agreed that is all we can do at this point.

Ms. Dodaro noted that she would appreciate anything, and it is a great idea. She

questioned if she should provide that information to Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Crissman answered yes. He noted that he wants to be assured that the letter gets to the correct location. He noted that the Board will copy you on the letter. Ms. Dodaro noted in one of the emails that Mr. Huenke sent to Diane Geise he said that we have to deal with the retaining wall first and we are getting our engineers to look at it.

Mr. Hawk noted that the letter will let them know that we haven't forgotten about it.

Mr. Seeds stated that he would bet that they know that we haven't forgotten about it.

Mr. Horning noted that we have gone after an improvement before. He noted that we have traded one improvement for another before, but he noted that we have engineering saying that the wall should be put in. He suggested that we send the letter and see what happens.

Mr. Lindsey questioned where you got the \$23,000 for the Improvement Guarantee. Ms. Dodaro answered, at one point she tried to get what the amount was and that is what she was given that there is a bond for \$23,000. Mr. Wolfe noted that the \$99,881.15; it is not money, it is an insurance contract by which the Township would have to draw upon after filing a suit to collect.

Mr. John Loy noted that he lives with his wife Sarah at 164 Meadowview Drive and what he knows about blacktop is that the base layer is what they have been driving on for ten years. He noted that normally in a year or two after a base coat is on they put the wearing surface on. He noted that he had a gentleman do a little repair job on the end of his driveway and he said that it is almost beyond use. He noted we have to wait another year or so and then it will all have to be ripped up. Ms. Lindsey noted that hopefully the letter that we will send to them will encourage them to do the work. Mr. Loy noted that he has not heard anyone speak about the ten-year old base coat that we have been driving on for ten years, it is about worthless. Ms. Lindsey noted that the roads are private and we don't have anything to do with that.

Mr. Seeds questioned if there would be any testing done on that. Mr. Wolfe answered that the Township Engineer would have to inspect the roads prior to paving and not allow them to pave it if the base fails. Mr. Loy noted that is where they are close to now.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if they will contact us before they start paving. Mr. Wolfe noted that they are required to but it doesn't mean that they will do that.

Ms. Lindsey noted that it would be good for Ms. Dodaro to explain to the residents about

the bond because she has received numerous calls that the Township has their money. She noted that she would appreciate if someone would explain the bond money to the residents. She noted that she has done that on many occasions but will do it again at next month's meeting.

Review of the financial statements of South Central Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Mr. Jason Campbell noted that he is the chief and Chief Executive Officer of South Central Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS). He distributed the 2016 budget for the Board's review. He noted that we can talk about this at a later time if need be.

Chief Campbell noted that he would be open to answer any questions that the Board may have in regards to the financial reports. He noted that in 2015, SCEMS continues to progress to become an outstanding EMS organization, noting that he talks to the Board at least four times a year. He noted that we have 500 calls in the Township on a monthly basis. He noted that the resident membership is around 3,500 and flyers were sent to every resident in the Township. He noted that he has reduced his liabilities by \$256,000 over the past year, and that is more than ever was done before.

Ms. Lindsey noted that she did a little research and found that they responded to 400 calls but you are saying that it is close to 500 calls a month. Chief Campbell noted if you take away the non-billables, we are at 400 to 425 calls. Ms. Lindsey questioned if we have four rigs in the Township. Chief Campbell answered that was correct.

Ms. Lindsey noted that she did some research and East Hanover Township has an average of 36 calls a month and they are giving South Central \$72,000. She noted that West Hanover Township has an average of 61 calls a month and they are giving them \$80,000. She noted that it might be something for the Board to think about as we have close to 500 calls a month and we are only giving them \$50,000. She explained that she wanted the Board to know how much the rigs are used in Lower Paxton Township compared to other municipalities and what we are giving.

Mr. Seeds noted that we also have to look at membership as well.

Mr. Crissman noted that those numbers were arrived at as a result of things that happened in past years prior to Ms. Lindsey's movement onto this Board and he would be more than happy to share that with her.

Ms. Lindsey noted that she is looking at the numbers. Mr. Crissman noted that he understands those facts but there is also history that goes with that. Ms. Lindsey asked why we are giving less. Chief Campbell noted that it was prior to his taking this position.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if this could be taken under consideration while doing the budget. Mr. Crissman answered yes.

Chief Campbell noted that we are in the first year of a two-year agreement. He noted that the renewal will come up in December 31, 2016

Ms. Lindsey noted that we could still provide more funds prior to the end of that agreement.

Mr. Hornung noted that he wants to get a handle on what Ms. Lindsey is talking about. He noted that the difference in the number of calls; is there any deficient operations because of having one location at Paxtonia. He questioned if there is anything that would help to make the operations in the Township more efficient in West Hanover Township. Chief Campbell answered no, although we just built that building, we are growing out of it. He noted in the future he will be looking for additional space on the north side. He noted that he wants to know what the contribution of Lower Paxton Township is for the profitability of your business to get a handle if the \$50,000 is a good amount, is it too low. He noted that Chief Campbell must think that it is too low. Chief Campbell noted that he would not say that it is too low, noting that it was \$25,000 less last year.

Mr. Crissman noted there were issues when Chief Campbell took over SCEMS; and we discussed them as we started the new process. He noted that he is saying this so Ms. Lindsey can begin to understand what took place. Chief Campbell noted that he would not say that it is too low, we operate fine as we are now. He noted that any additional revenue would go towards payroll.

Mr. Hornung noted if SCEMS were to get more money what would you use it for. Chief Campbell answered payroll purposes. Mr. Hornung questioned if the payroll needs to be increased and why. Chief Campbell answered yes, as we are on par with other EMS agencies that are the same size. He noted that we can't compete with a hospital-based EMS company as the one is union. He noted that in place of offering a higher pay we pay 100% of the employee's medical benefits. He noted that we do not do non-emergency transports, and most hospital-based

programs do a lot of that. He noted that we pay 100% for medical, eye, and dental, pay towards their pensions. He noted that we take emergency calls and actually provide emergency care.

Mr. Seeds noted that Chief Campbell has done a tremendous job and brought a lot of credibility to SCEMS, and like the fire companies in this Township, the residents feel safe and secure living in this Township knowing that the fire companies are there to help if need be, and also that SCEMS will be there. He noted that the citizens will get the best care possible.

Mr. Crissman explained that Chief Campbell walked into a difficult situation and we had many long discussions for where we would go if he would accept the leadership role. He noted that Chief Campbell continued to work for us, it was a long process, and he wanted to applaud his leadership in bringing the organization to where it is today.

Mr. Hawk noted that Chief Campbell should be proud of the work that he does.

#### Preparation of the 2016 fiscal year budgets

Mr. Wolfe noted that the budget is in draft form and he is working to get it to the point that he will advertise it for adoption at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. He noted the power point is an introduction for the budget.

Mr. Crissman questioned if light of the Commonwealth's continued budget impasse is it having any impact on the Township fiscally. Mr. Wolfe answered up until this time, no. Mr. Crissman questioned if this fiasco continues at what point will there be an impact on the Township. Mr. Wolfe answered that we received two distributions of funds from the State, the one just received in September for the State Aid for pension funding, and in March of each year we receive about \$1.4 million for Liquid Fuels. He noted that those funds come from State highway gas tax funds. He noted that the State aid for pensions come from foreign fire insurance taxes. He stated that he did not think that either was affected by the Commonwealth's budget.

Mr. Seeds suggested that grants funds could be affected. Mr. Wolfe answered that we do have DCNR grants for the Heroes Grove project and very small amounts for lighting at the FC. He noted that we received an up-front distribution from DCNR a few months ago, but neither grant is significant and we could float it until the State pays out.

Mr. Crissman noted that it is nice that the citizens can be assured that we can continue to operate without any negative impact on our community. Mr. Wolfe noted that we are not like a

school district that receives significant amounts of funds from the State for education.

Mr. Wolfe noted that Lower Paxton Township is a Township of the Second Class with five supervisors, having a population of 47,000 plus in 28 square miles. He noted that the Township owns 200 miles of roads, 275 miles of sanitary sewers, 150 miles of storm sewers, and 320 acres of parkland. He noted that the Township employs 140 full-time and nearly 400 part-time and seasonal workers.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Township offers municipal services for public safety for police, fire, EMS, and emergency preparedness. He noted that the public works maintains, roads, storm sewers, municipal properties and the compost facility. He noted that we maintain and operate a very large sanitary sewer system and operate outdoor parks facility and the Friendship Center. He noted that the Community Development Department includes conducting building inspections, sanitation and health issues and well as subdivision and land development. He noted that the Administration is involved with finance and personnel issues.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the budgets for 2016 for the General Fund has \$21,868,334 in revenues and \$22,106,473 in expenses. He noted that they must be balanced and we are not there yet. He noted that the Liquid Fuels allocation for 2016 is \$1,410,880 and the General Improvement Fund for capital projects is \$9,170,176. He noted that the Fire Equipment Capital Fund has revenues of \$204,300 with expenditures of \$2,200,000. He noted that the LOSAP has revenues of \$80,520 with expenditures of \$30,000. Ms. Lindsey noted that we have 11 members in the LOSAP, will we be getting more next year. Mr. Wolfe answered one more member and we may be at 14 by the end of next year.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Friendship Center Operating fund has revenues of \$2,214,274 with expenses of \$2,216,265. He noted that the budget does not have to be balanced but it will be by the time you see it in final form. He noted that the Lower Paxton Township Authority has revenues of \$15,310,251 with expenditures of \$14,675,267. He noted that their Capital fund for the I&I program has expenditures of \$9,220,000.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the total proposed spending for 2016 is \$61 million not including pension funds.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the General Fund, the primary operating fund for the Township is not yet balanced with revenues of \$21,868,334 and expenditures of \$22,106,473. He noted that

it funds the General Improvement Fund, Fire Equipment Capital Fund, LOSAP, and Police and Non-Uniformed pension plans. He noted that the pie charts shows the major sources of revenues including the main sources of income for the Township; Earned Income Tax, Real Estate Tax, and Local Services Tax. He noted that the Police Department is the largest source of expenditures for the Township followed by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Wolfe noted that annual expenditures for operation from 2008 through the 2016 budget have increased by a total of 16.8% or 1.87% per year. He noted that the Consumer Price Index for North East urban acres has increased 13.1% producing a 1.75% average.

Mr. Hornung questioned if this included the Sewer Authority. Mr. Wolfe answered that it is just for the General Fund.

Mr. Wolfe noted in 2015 the Township had a real estate tax increase of .4 mills to address on-going municipal needs that were left on hold during the great recession. He noted that the total millage rate is currently 1.7 mills. He noted that the 2016 budget is based upon the 1.7 millage rate with no increase proposed.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Board has a strategic plan that is paid out of the General Improvement Fund but it is funded in part through the General Fund. He noted that it includes achieving a compliment of 57 sworn police officers and expanding the Public Works municipal garage. He noted that \$4 million in bonds were issued in 2014 to fund this project as well as repairing and replacing failing storm sewers using \$1.2 million per year for the next three years. He noted that the plan includes continued upgrades to municipal parks including ADA improvement at an additional \$175,000 per year; continue Phase I of the Wolfersberger park at \$100,000 in 2016; continued investment into Information Technology at an additional \$75,000 a year; and apply the additional State Aid to roadway paving.

Mr. Wolfe noted in 2016, additional strategic programs are planned as grant funds have been applied for the following projects: compost facility noise abatement estimated to cost \$100,000; update the Comprehensive Plan estimated to cost \$150,000; and implement the Greenway Plan by installing the Nyes Road sidewalk estimated to cost \$50,000. He noted that other considerations are Phase IV of the Fire Equipment Capital Plan, increase the allocation to the Fire Equipment Capital Plan, and additional funding for stormwater management.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the State Aid Fund that comes from the Commonwealth as per the

Pennsylvania Liquid Fuels Tax Act 655 of 1956. He noted in 2016 the Township expects to receive over \$1,410,990 in revenues for roadway maintenance. He noted that it is an increase of \$200,000 from 2015.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the 2016 Fire Equipment Capital Plan covers the purchase of nine pieces of primary apparatus used by the Township's three volunteered fire companies. He noted that Phase IV is scheduled to begin at some point in the future and will address the replacement of the Phase I equipment at a cost of approximately \$1,390,000. He noted that the fund balance is \$1.6 million and an additional \$204,300 will be added in 2016. He suggested that the total fund expenditures would be \$2.2 million. He explained, in the past, when purchases were made, the Board has done deficit purchasing borrowing from the General Fund and then paid it off over time. He noted if you purchase \$2.2 million in 2016, it would take you to 2019 to pay it off.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the LOSAP provides a defined benefit stipend to volunteer firefighters and fire police officers for length of service to the community. He noted that the plan has approximately \$525,000 at the beginning of 2016 with an additional \$80,500 to be added in 2016. He noted that the maximum award is \$250 per month to a fire fighter who has reached the age of 65 with 25 years of volunteer service.

Mr. Hornung noted that the pension fund is overlooked by an actuary but he questioned if it is very high as we are only paying out \$30,000 and paying in \$80,000. Mr. Wolfe explained that firefighters were only able to receive the benefits in January 2013. He noted that the number of firefighters who are participating and will be able to claim a benefit will grow dramatically over time. He noted that we have 11 now, 14 at the end of 2016, and when it hits full cycle you will have 30 or 40 that will be eligible. He noted that the draw will be greater than the allocation. He explained that the LOSAP has been designed based upon an actuarial valuation and we are in good shape but we are not in any position to overfund it. Mr. Crissman noted that we are preparing for the future.

Mr. Wolfe noted that we had a workshop session where we focused on the General Improvement Fund and there is a large expenditure planned for 2016 in the amount of \$9,170,176, noting that the primary expense will be the Public Works building project as well as storm water improvements.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Friendship Center (FC) Operating Fund Budget has not been

reviewed by the FC Operating Board as it is scheduled for their next meeting. He noted that it is nearly balanced with \$2,214,274 in revenues and \$2,216,265 in expenditures. He noted that he plans on presenting this in detail at the November workshop meeting.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the LPTA budget was discussed during the August meeting having revenues of 415,310,251 and expenditures of \$14,675,267. He explained that capital projects are expected to be \$9,220,000 and the Board is looking to borrow bond funds to continue the I&I Program in the amount of \$25 million.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the largest source of tax income is the Earned Income Tax and the 2016 revenues are expected to be \$7.6 million; real estate will be \$5 million; and the Local Services Tax is \$1,250,000.

Mr. Hornung questioned what the 2016 Earned Income Tax is in relation to 2015. Mr. Wolfe answered that it is very similar with only a slight increase.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the real estate tax rate is 1.7 mills and expects to generate \$5 million which is 22.6% of the General Fund. He noted that 20% of the real estate taxes directly benefit fire services.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the average tax rate in Dauphin County for 2015 is 2.541 mills, with Lower Paxton Township being 1.7 mills. He noted for a home assessed at \$200,000 the tax would be \$340. He noted that \$267.40 goes to the General Fund; \$64.40 for fire protection and \$8.20 for the library tax. He noted in 2016 the Township residents will pay property taxes at the rate of 23.7882 mills; Central Dauphin School District is 14.8622 mills; Dauphin County is 7.226 mills; and Lower Paxton Township is 1.7 mills.

Mr. Hornung noted that the Township tax rate is less than a dollar a day.

Mr. Crissman noted that the property tax from his other location, a property that is much smaller than the one he owns in the Township and it is three times higher.

Mr. Seeds noted that Dauphin County is on a fiscal calendar and the School District's calendar runs from July to June. He noted that we don't know if Dauphin County plans on raising taxes. Mr. Wolfe noted that they are taking great pride in that the current administration has not raised taxes. Mr. Crissman noted that the School District would have to announce very shortly if they plan to raise taxes.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Board has the narratives for all operating areas as well as tables.

He explained that the budget was prepared maintaining the real estate tax at its current rate and maintaining all existing programs that have been started by the Board in their current condition, under taking no new programs or hiring unless previously approved by the Board as part of the strategic plan. He noted that this budget in many regards is a mirror image of the 2105 budget. He noted that the creation of the strategic plan set the budget process for 2016 through 2019.

Mr. Seeds noted if we want to keep the mileage the same for 2016 and provide an increase for the firemen we would have to cut somewhere else. Mr. Hawk noted that this budget is not balanced yet. Mr. Wolfe noted that it was prepared continuing all programs that the Board started in 2015. He noted if you add something to it that is not in the process you have to increase revenue or decrease expenditures in other areas. Mr. Seeds noted that he is in favor of that increase and he would like to see some items added into the parks budget.

Mr. Seeds noted at Koons Park there have been some ongoing improvements to the girls' softball field started a few years ago. He explained that he would like to see that it is completed by the persons doing it or contracting the work out. Mr. Wolfe noted that if the Board members email him ideas, he can compile them and present them to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Seeds noted with the budget problems starting in 2008, many things were let go. He noted that we now need to fund them.

Mr. Crissman noted that he is not in favor of doing line item by line item, as it is an early draft. He noted that we need to have a meeting to discuss the additions and deletions. He noted that it would be a waste of time to do a line item review.

Mr. Hawk noted that we have time to work out the details.

Mr. Seeds noted that he has some questions to go over. Mr. Hawk requested him to put them in a memo to Mr. Wolfe.

Mr. Seeds noted under 01-4400-429.06 the I&I crew it lists \$72,000 and he suggested that it should be more than that. Mr. Wolfe noted that he would check into it.

Mr. Seeds noted under 01-4002-44.02 it lists Police Arbitration for 2014. Mr. Wolfe noted that he will correct that typo.

Mr. Seeds noted that 01-4810-481.02 has to do with unemployment. Mr. Wolfe noted that the Township is required to pay a solvency fee to the State. Mr. Crissman noted that it is one of those State fees.

Mr. Seeds noted that 01-4810-401 has to do with Workers Compensation. He questioned what that is all about. Mr. Wolfe noted that the Township is a member of the Susquehanna Municipal Insurance Trust and the Township pays about \$320,000 a year for that insurance. He noted what we don't use over the course of a year is returned in the next year as a dividend. Mr. Seeds noted that he would get back to Mr. Wolfe on that one. Mr. Crissman noted that we are self-insured and whatever we pay in, what is not used comes back the next year as a dividend.

Ms. Lindsey noted under the Health Department and recycling, last year we got \$60,000 and it is projected that it would be down to \$14,500. Mr. Wolfe answered that we had the meetings with Penn Waste and ended up executing a new agreement noting the recycling market is shot and this is all that we expect to receive. He noted that he does not expect a recovery in the recycling market soon.

Ms. Lindsey noted that the police did not apply for the universal hiring grant. Mr. Wolfe explained that they have a specific community component that you have to meet. He noted that we don't have any new community components, we are continuing with what we are doing but we don't have something new to address.

Ms. Lindsey noted under the School Resource Officer revenue you have it listed as \$35,000; however it lists Dauphin County Technical School at \$45,000. Mr. Wolfe noted that is a mistake and he will have to confirm which amount is the correct one.

Ms. Lindsey noted that the retirement section mentions that there could be two payouts and it lists it as January 2015. She questioned if it should be 2016. Mr. Wolfe noted that he would correct that mistake.

Ms. Lindsey noted in the computer for cars it has \$11,500 and she checked on the Strategic Plan and we had allotted \$30,000 for tablets for the police, noting that the laptops were so big that the officers couldn't take them into and out. She noted that it is very tight fit for someone to sit in the passenger seat. She suggested that we were looking at tablets for the police officers. Mr. Wolfe noted that he would get an answer on that for Ms. Lindsey. She noted that she did some research and one is called Data Lux and the other is called Tuff books that could be taken in and out of the cars. She noted that the strategic plan calls for \$30,000 and you had \$11,500 in the budget.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if we can save some money on mowing grass by letting Public

Works do it instead of contracting it out. Mr. Wolfe explained that it costs more to have our staff do it, noting that the current rate is \$75 and we can't pay two guys at their hourly rate with the trucking equipment to do it for that rate. He noted that it is a cheaper rate and we also tend to operate bigger equipment.

Mr. Seeds noted that the Susquehanna Municipal Trust provides a self-funding program for workers compensation and it produces a refund at the end of each plan year. He noted that the 2015 plan cost was \$285,000 and it is expected to be offset by \$35,000 refund from 2014. He noted that it would work out to be \$250,000 in 2016. Mr. Wolfe noted that the \$325,000 is correct for 2016 but the narrative is incomplete in that it mentions our experience up to 2015; however, the 2015 experience has not been good as we had two police officers with significant injuries providing for a significant cost. He noted that the number for next year is correct.

Mr. Wolfe noted that he could schedule a Board meeting for Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for a budget workshop meeting. Ms. Lindsey noted that would be fine. Mr. Hornung suggested that he couldn't be there but he would provide questions for Mr. Wolfe. He noted that he is hoping to be present. Mr. Seeds noted that he will be present.

Review of the proposed Intermunicipal Agreement with the  
Dauphin County Land Bank

Mr. Wolfe noted that this agreement proposes that the Township and the other municipalities in the Central Dauphin School District including the School District participate with the Dauphin County Land Bank Authority. He noted that the Land Bank Authority would acquire non-viable properties in states of disrepair and repair and market them to return them to the tax rolls. He noted that the Township's obligation is found in paragraph three of the agreement. He noted that the Township will forgive and exonerate and release the property from any real estate tax liens and any other municipal liens such as the sanitary sewer as well as citation costs and other charges. He explained, while the property is under ownership of the Authority the property shall not be taxable. He noted when the Authority attempts to return the property to productive use, the use may include a non-taxable use such as a transfer to the School District or Municipality. He noted if the Authority does return the property to a taxable use then the School District or Municipality, for a period of five years, will transfer 50% of the proceeds received from taxation to the Authority. He noted that there are other provisions in regard to our

inspection of the work to return the property back to a suitable condition. He noted during the Authority ownership, the Township will be obligated to maintain the exterior of the property including cutting grass, snow removal, etc. He noted that we would not be responsible to fund any capital improvements to the property.

Mr. Wolfe noted that this agreement is provided for your information only. He noted that he has not had an official request from Dauphin County to place this on the agenda but he wanted the Board to be aware of it. He noted if you have any questions he could forward those questions to the Authority.

Mr. Seeds questioned if we have any property that would be eligible under this agreement. Mr. Wolfe answered yes.

Mr. Seeds noted that he did not recall having to do the maintenance of the property. Mr. Wolfe noted if you look at paragraph three it states that the municipality is obligated to maintain the exterior portion of the property included but not limited to snow and ice removal, vegetation and cutting grass, and any other exterior maintenance. Mr. Seeds questioned why wouldn't they assume that responsibility if they are resuming the responsibility to rehab the facility. Mr. Wolfe answered that he could ask that question. Mr. Seeds noted that we would have to do a contract to maintain the smaller lawns. He noted that he is not against it but it could become costly.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if we could use the community service for some of the properties. Mr. Wolfe answered yes. Ms. Lindsey noted that there is a typo in the first paragraph as it says that the School District is located at 600 Rutherford Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the nine is missing from the zip code.

Mr. Seeds questioned if we would be able to recoup any of our costs. Mr. Wolfe answered no.

Ms. Lindsey noted if we used some of the community service people that we use for some of the properties it would not cost us anything. Ms. Lindsey noted that we are using clients of Terry Davis's operation from Keystone Collections and we don't have to pay them. Mr. Seeds suggested that we could get them to clean up along the roads as well.

Mr. Crissman questioned Mr. Wolfe if he is waiting for Dauphin County to have us put this on the agenda. Mr. Wolfe answered yes and he wanted to know if anyone had any concerns. Mr. Crissman noted that we will wait until we hear from Mr. Wolfe.

Review of the proposed Intermunicipal Agreement for  
Preparation of the Paxton Creek TMDL Strategy

Mr. Seeds noted that we have discussed this before. Mr. Wolfe noted in the workshop on capital improvements we discussed the agreement for the preparation of the Paxton Creek Watershed TMDL. He noted that we did not have a final agreement in place; however, he now has a final draft for that agreement and he would like to share it with the Board. He noted if everyone is okay with it he would like to put it on the agenda for next Tuesday night.

Mr. Crissman questioned if there are any major changes from the previous one. Mr. Wolfe answered that the most significant change is that this Intermunicipal agreement provides for the preparation of the Paxton Creek Pollution Reduction Plan and it sets forth the cost sharing percentages. He noted that the share of the project costs will be 18.2% by CRW; Lower Paxton Township's share will be 37.6%; and Susquehanna Township's will be 44.2%. He noted that the total project cost is \$126,366.

Mr. Crissman questioned if this is set in concrete. Mr. Wolfe noted that the numbers are firm.

Mr. Seeds questioned if we would be paying that percent of project costs. Mr. Wolfe answered yes.

Mr. Seeds noted that we had a signed agreement with the three managers. Mr. Wolfe explained that what you have is that he and the other two managers have signed a letter which is given to property owners who have stream channels running through their properties saying that the people walking up and down the street will be working for us. Mr. Seeds questioned if this is our best alternative. Mr. Wolfe answered yes. He noted if we don't join together we will have to prepare our own plan at our own costs and although it wouldn't cost \$126,000 but to get an effective plan it is better to do the entire drainage basin under one protocol as opposed to having three plans. He noted that this is the best environmental approach.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if Mr. Stine reviewed the agreement. Mr. Stine answered yes.

Mr. Hornung noted that the City of Harrisburg deposits 400 tons daily as the Township is double that. He noted that all the city's sewage does not go to Paxton Creek as parts go to other basins. Mr. Wolfe noted that this is not sewage it is stormwater. He noted that our drainage basin is much larger than Harrisburg's. Mr. Hornung questioned when they treat the sewer water

that comes from the Paxton Creek drainage basin in Lower Paxton where does that affluent end up. Mr. Wolfe answered the City of Harrisburg in the Susquehanna River.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Crissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Hawk adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle  
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

William L. Hornung  
Township Secretary