

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Special Meeting
14 November 2012

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in special session at 8 am for the purpose of approving a tentative budget for 2013. Present were Chairman Keith A Whipkey, Timothy R Komar, and William C Penrod Jr.

Whipkey presented three options for consideration regarding changes for the coming year. First, it was discussed for the Township to consider a 1.5 mill increase in the tax rate. This increase has been considered for the past three years. In the prior two years, the budget was balanced through transfers of money from capital accounts – funds held in reserve for emergency conditions. However, the Township may not go three years of expenses exceeding income without having to be declared a distressed community. Second, since the Township will receive a windfall resulting from the retirement of Mr Penrod as of 3 January, the millage increase might reflect the hiring of a road crew member in his place. The logic is that the past two road crew members to leave were not replaced, and a crew is short of manpower. The third option was to leave the millage at 3.5 and rely on a windfall of impact fees amounting to more than \$56,000 to help balance the budget in addition to not hiring another employee.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod ultimately to approve the increase of mills from 3.5 to 5. In addition, the road crew will not be expanded unless a real shortage in manpower is experienced. There was also discussion that perhaps Mr Binkey (tentatively appointed to replace Mr Penrod) might be hired part-time to assist in snow plowing if necessary.

Whipkey brought up the fact that the current cash balance contains some \$241,000 in funds being held for Storm Water, Sewer, and Maintenance Bonds for various projects throughout the Township. This is a substantial increase in such funds on deposit during 2012. The possibility exists that bonds may need to be released at some point in the future, and these funds should be segregated to ensure they are available if needed. He suggested that \$200,000 be earmarked and placed in the reserve fund category to recognize that these funds are truly earmarked. Hopefully, if no disbursements are made in 2013, the remaining \$41,000 can be re-assigned next year. The suggestion was incorporated into the motion on the table, and the motion carried.

There being no further advertised business, a motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Komar to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A Whipkey
Secretary