

Ridley Township Board of Commissioners
November 22, 2021
Special Meeting Minutes

A Special Meeting of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice President McCrea at 6:00pm on November 22, 2021 at the Township Building.

The following Commissioners were present: Mr. Saraceni, Mr. Donahue, Mrs. Cummins, Mr. McMenamin, Mr. Saunders, Mr. McCrea, Mrs. Melasecca, Mr. Bidoli. Mr. Willert arrived at 6:05pm.

Also present were Mr. Ryan (Township Manager), Mr. Betzler (Controller), Mr. Caponi (Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director) and Mrs. Schlosser (Accounting Manager).

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. McCrea stated the purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the 2022 Tentative Budget.

The Board reviewed the Special Fund Accounts.

- Debt Service/Sinking Fund: This account pays off township debts such as General Obligation Loans. There is no new debt anticipated and one debt is set to retire in 2022.
- Fire Fund: The account is used to pay fire hydrant fees, appropriations to fire companies, insurance for volunteer firefighters and fire marshal salary. The Township will maintain the same level of funding for each fire company.
- Highway Aid Fund: This account is used for street lighting expenses, resurfacing of roads and can be used to purchase highway equipment. Mr. McMenamin asked if a new dump truck could be purchased from this account. Mr. Caponi said the purchase would be permitted under the fund guidelines.
- Expenditures from other special fund accounts such as Escrow, PENNVEST or Grant accounts would have to be authorized as they occurred by the Board during a public meeting.

The Board reviewed the General Fund revenue accounts.

- Real estate tax collection is between 97% and 98%. The County's final assessment figure is up slightly due to the finalization of assessment appeals.
- The Local Enabling Tax will increase in revenue due to the higher cost of homes selling. The Township receives 1/2% Deed Transfer fees. This increase in revenue will make up for the loss in Local Services Tax.

- Interest Revenue is decreased since the interest rates are low. The reason 2021 was higher is due to CD's that expired in 2021 at a higher interest rate.
- Permits and Fees should see an increase due to the anticipated development in 2022.
- Public Safety revenue is down mainly due to a decrease in fines since there was no court hearings held.
- Rental revenue will increase due to an increase in hall rentals.
- State funding will decrease. Grants that were applied for were denied. County Aid is being reduced.
- Sanitation will see an increase due to the increased market for recyclables.
- Overall revenue is expected to increase by 2.4%.

The Board reviewed the General Fund expenditures.

- Most of the increases in expenditures are inflationary increases in materials and supplies
- Police expenditures decreased due to overtime decreases and decreases in capital purchases. Mrs. Cummins asked if new police vehicles were being purchased. Mr. Ryan stated one new vehicle is budgeted along with 2 electronic speed monitors and 2 vehicle mounted tag readers. Mr. Ryan stated the Township has been going through their vehicle fleet to determine which vehicles to sell/trade in.
- Will look at the cost for any new Code Enforcement vehicles.
- Sanitation expenditures include the purchase of a sewer truck to replace the 1993 sewer truck and also a sanitation truck to replace a 1996 sanitation truck.
- Recreation expenses will decrease as the Pickleball court is nearing completion, and the grant for Nall Field that was anticipated wasn't approved. Mr. Donahue asked if any park upgrades were planned. Mr. Caponi stated the program to replace aging playground equipment and add a Bocce Ball court at Ridley Township Municipal Park is budgeted.
- Some insurance expenses are anticipated to decrease, though the final premium figures have not been received yet.
- Fund Transfers will decrease mainly due to the MMO dropping based on the actuarial study.
- Overall, expenditures are expected to decrease approximately 2%.

The Board discussed the rubbish and sewer service charges. The County Authorities for rubbish and sewer are increasing their service fees for 2022. Rubbish by 35% - from \$58.00 per ton to \$78.00 per ton and sewer by 12%. Further discussion was held on whether the township can absorb these increased costs and not pass along to property owners. The Board agreed not to increase the service charges for residents.

After discussion, the Board also agreed not to increase the tax millage for 2022 and thanked the Controller, Township Manager, Finance Department and Department Heads for their hard work in keeping expenditures low, while maintaining the same services.

Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. McMenemy to adopt the 2022 Tentative Budget which calls for no tax millage increase and no increase in rubbish or sewer service charges. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Mr. Ryan announced there will be a special meeting on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6:00pm in Garling Hall to review the final budget.

Mr. Ryan announced the final budget is expected to be adopted at a special meeting on Monday, December 27, 2021 at 6:00pm in Garling Hall.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Willert to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Donahue. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Meeting concluded at 6:42pm.