

**PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**November 17, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

A public meeting of the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2008 at 7:35 p.m. at the Point Pleasant Fire Company, 6500 Point Pleasant Pike, Point Pleasant, PA.

Present:

**Frank Froio**  
**Stacey Mulholland**  
**Housley Carr**  
**Vince Formica**  
**Thomas Alvaré**  
**Carolyn McCreary**

**Chair**  
**Vice Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Member**  
**Township Manager**

Chairman Frank Froio called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. asking for a moment of silence and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR:** Mr. Froio announced that the meeting was being held for the specific purpose of reviewing the proposed 2009 budget. Ms. McCreary stated that the meeting had been properly advertised.

Ms. McCreary provided additional information relating to the budget including a PowerPoint presentation, and documentation to the Board outlining a proposal to eliminate the projected deficit for 2009 which she estimated to be at \$716,969. She outlined the assumptions built into the budget including the replacement of two full-time officers, a hiring freeze for non-uniform personnel. She also stated the only capital project planned for 2009 was the 1.1 mile of paving on Applebutter Road, which will be paid out of the State Liquid Fuels Fund and the Local Services Tax Fund. She reminded the Board that about \$243,000 of the deficit pertained to debt service for the part of the 2005 General Obligation Bond that was non-electoral. She stated in past years additional revenue particularly from real estate transfer taxes was used to offset this expenditure. However, since there is a dramatic decline in this area it is compounding the problem. She also advised the Board that they were able to use reserves in the Local Service Tax Fund, as this tax was put in place to provide a new revenue source to help municipalities offset their public safety and road improvement operations. She stated her budget proposal contained a \$100,000 transfer to reduce the projected deficit in the General Fund since these two departments comprise 65% of the expenditures.

The Board discussed various scenarios to reduce the deficit, including drawing down from the Township reserves, looking for additional ways to cut expenditures, and making certain events like the annual Egg Hunt and Tree Lighting sponsor-supported. Several also asked if it was feasible for the EAC to be self-supporting through grants and/or donations in order to eliminate the \$10,000 budgeted for 2009.

Of primary concern was the impact a reduction in earned income tax received would have on the Township. Mr. Alvaré expressed concern that the Township would not meet its 2008 budget, and could see about a 4% reduction in 2009. He recognized that would add to the projected deficit, as there are no programs or projects being planned that could be cut or postponed to offset this additional shortfall.

Board consensus was to continue to evaluate methods of reducing the deficit, while authorizing the proposed budget for advertisement. Ms. McCreary stated that should the Board choose to adopt the budget as proposed Department Heads would still continue to monitor their discretionary line items. She stated that in the case of the Police Department this would amount to about 8% of their proposed budget, as the rest of the budget is tied to personnel, insurance for the department's operations and the like.

**Motion** by Ms. Mulholland, seconded by Mr. Formica to authorize the advertisement of the 2009 proposed budget.

**Royal Doner, 5221 Valley Park Rd.** asked about the cost of health insurance, a proposed tax increase and commented on fuel costs. **Dan Hilferty, 5141 Craigs View,** asked how the Board would sell the idea of a tax increase given the usual focus on the percentage increase versus the actual dollars it may represent. With no additional comment, all voted in favor 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Mr. Formica, seconded by Ms. Mulholland to adjourn at 10:00p.m. With no additional comment, all voted in favor 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager

Date approved: