

Workshop Meeting Activity

November 11, 2013

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MOTION</u>	<u>SECOND</u>
Adjournment	VP Beaman	Comm Steup

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TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 11, 2013

CALL TO ORDER:

President Linda S. Vescio called the meeting to order at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Those in attendance were Vice-President Edward K. Beaman, Commissioners Joanne Schollaert, Clayton Steup, Rodney W. Gartner, Manager Gwen Patterson and Solicitor Harlan S. Stone. Secretary Martha B. Rogers was not in attendance.

President Vescio announced there will be an executive session before adjournment this evening to discuss Township personnel.

2014 MEETING DATES:

President Vescio read the scheduled workshop and legislative dates for 2014 for the Board and the public.

2014 MILLAGE RATE & ORDINANCE:

President Vescio said we can reduce the millage from 4.0 to 3.5 or 3.0. The ordinance has been advertised for adoption at next week's meeting. Vice-President Beaman said we should set approximately \$250,000.00 aside to take care of Overlook Drive. President Vescio said this Board is leaving the Township very solvent and viable. There is a lawsuit

from Masonic Village and a potential lawsuit from Sewickley Heights Manor. Prior lawsuits have been handled. There is quite a lot of money in reserve. Vice-President Beaman said when possible that money should be returned to the people of the Township.

Commissioner Schollaert said there is a difference of approximately \$70,000.00 between 4.0 and 3.5 mills. We are very solvent and should not be carrying this much money. Vice-President Beaman went over fund balances.

Commissioner Gartner asked about a figure on the budget on the last page. President Vescio said it will be discussed in executive session.

Manager Patterson said if the Board wants to go down to 3.0 mills, reserve funds will have to be used for some categories. The budget would have to be balanced with reserve money. The Board decided to keep the millage at 3.5.

Commissioner Schollaert asked if we could escrow some of the money to go towards an amortized payment for the bond. As an example if we took \$500,000.00 and amortized it over 30 years because the bond cannot be paid in advance for the first five years. She asked if that would make an impact on the fee for the residents. Manager Patterson said by \$1 or \$2. Vice-President Beaman said he feels it is a good idea to put money aside for future sewer payments in case the Township runs a little short. It was suggested that money should be allocated in a lump sum to the infrastructure fund as a payment on the sewer bond. Manager Patterson said she would need a motion authorizing her to transfer a certain amount from the General Fund into the Infrastructure Fund. An ordinance is not needed. Solicitor Stone said that can be done at any time. In five years, the interest rate can be renegotiated on the bond. Manager Patterson said funds can be allocated now.

OLD BUSINESS:

Manager Patterson said a letter has been received from Penn Dot regarding Red Gate Road. Inlets and pipe are being flushed out on the entire roadway. Rock is being used to re-establish shoulders. The inlet is being repaired parallel to the house at 12 Rhodes Avenue. Debris built up under guide rails will be removed to re-establish sheet flow along Red Gate Road. Mr. Kerr said this is the minimal amount of work. President Vescio asked if any of the residents have commented on the work. Mr. Kerr said no. Manager Patterson said Matt Smith's office called as soon as they got a copy of this letter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Manager Patterson said our Moody's rating has been upgraded to a Baa1.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Charlotte Pierce, Masonic Village said she feels the Commissioners are underpaid and a raise should be considered. She feels Public Works and Administrative should be considered for increases in salaries. She said taking some of the funds and using them as payment on the sewer bond is wonderful. As a resident of Masonic Village, she said a reduction in the tax rate does not help her. A savings of funds to apply to the sewer would apply to all residents in the Township - not just to tax paying residents. She would leave the millage at 4 and use the additional money for the sewer bond. If the insurance doesn't pay legal costs, we all may face large legal fees. President Vescio thanked her for bringing these issues to the Board's attention. She said the Board has already considered these subjects.

At 7:35 PM, the Board went into executive session and returned to regular session at 8:25 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-President Beaman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Steup seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Rogers
Township Secretary