

BUDGET  
WORK SESSION  
Via Zoom Communications

October 29, 2020

Council President Barbara Heffelfinger called the meeting of Penndel Borough Council to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting

Mayor Robert Winkler  
Council President Barbara Heffelfinger  
Council Vice President Beverly Wolfe  
Councilman John Stratz  
Councilman Mark Moffa  
Councilman Joe Dudash  
Councilwoman Laura Germain - absent  
Councilman Gary Nickerson

Also present

Carol Schuehler, Engineer  
Bill Rountree, Wright Partners  
Marie Serota, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

Announcements

Ed Preston & Vince Moscato asked Mrs. Heffelfinger to announce the following:

Lower Bucks Vietnam Memorial Design Unveiling is scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at Middletown Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Highway in Levittown, PA. The ceremonies will include the unveiling of a maquette of the sculpture being created by Abbe Godwin. Her works include the Corpsman Memorial and the Peacekeeper statue at the Beirut Memorial, both at Camp Johnson in Jacksonville, NC; and the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the state capitol in Raleigh.

Auto Zone Project

Carol Schuehler notified Council in a letter dated 10/29/2020 of a change requested by Auto Zone regarding changing the size of a drainage pipe for their project on Lincoln Hwy. A copy of the letter is attached.

Joe Dudash questioned what the trash rack would be made of, whose responsibility it is to maintain it and suggested a maintenance log be submitted to the borough every month and after every storm. Carol responded that it will be made of steel bars and maintenance of the pipe is the property owner's responsibility. Bill Rountree said the current agreement would cover that, but it could be tweaked if necessary. Resident Tom Sodano said that Mr. Dudash's request is too aggressive and quarterly checks would be ok. He asked Carol if the change from 18" drain to two 8" pipes would have an adverse effect on the aging infrastructure. Carol responded that it will be going into a new pipe that they are installing. Their stormwater agreement includes an annual report to the borough. Bev Wolfe shared a map of the project on the screen to clarify where the pipe is. Barbara Heffelfinger asked if he notified PennDot about diversion of traffic. Mr. Rountree said they will revise the highway occupancy permit.

MOTION BY BEVERLY WOLFE TO ALLOW FOR THE CHANGE OF THE STORM PIPE UNDER LINCOLN HWY. AT THE AUTO ZONE SITE AS PER THE BOROUGH ENGINEER'S RECOMMENDATION (LETTER DATED 10/29/2020). SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. The roll call vote was: John Dudash aye, Barbara Heffelfinger aye, Mark Moffa aye, Gary Nickerson aye, John Stratz aye, Beverly Wolfe aye. The motion carried 6-0.

#### 2021 Budget Review

Council President turned over the meeting to Finance Chair Beverly Wolfe. Beverly said that she was notified by Chief Perry that the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system will be up next year as they discussed at Monday night's meeting. She will confirm with the Mayor and Chief.

#### Finance/Administration

Beverly Wolfe told Mark Moffa that she will need recommendations on Sections 400 and 401 of the budget. We received the proposal from Bee, Bergvall for the 2020 audit, which is \$13,700. The executive section will be discussed privately then decided by entire council.

General Government section – Beverly Wolfe suggested that they add to the budget funds for Council reimbursement for expenses for example, supplies and ink cartridges. Council agreed to look into the specifics for this. John Stratz asked if this would include reimbursement for mulch.

#### Building & Maintenance

Barbara Heffelfinger brought up the water problem in the basement in borough hall. The Mayor explained that he checks the basement to make sure that the sump pump is working. He said that the lateral water pipe out of the building is leaking through the wall. An old electrical conduit has water running through that also. At the bottom of the steps on the left, water is running down the pipe with the telephone line going through. He thinks the whole wall needs to be looked at. Mark said we can probably use a French drain. Joe said that could cost \$18,000. They will check it tomorrow.

#### Community Development

Beverly Wolfe, Chairperson, said grants are slowing down. We need to be selective on what we apply for.

Line #01-456-450 is the line for tree removal in Taddei Woods and recreation field. Gary said we need to decide in which areas trees need to be removed. Beverly Wolfe said she will look for alternatives for tree removal at Taddei Woods.

#### Community Relations

Since Laura Germain wasn't present, Barbara Heffelfinger said the budget should be the same as the 2020 budget except for Taddei Woods expenses.

#### Insurance/Pensions

Gary submitted insurance figures. The broker said it will be approximately two weeks to get the renewal numbers. Bev asked if he could look at U.S. Healthcare or AETNA. She said the current policy is Personal Choice PPO Silver. Mark said it isn't the same as other policies. Bev Wolfe said her personal medical insurance was increased 30%. She will put in a 20% increase until we get definitive numbers. Joe Dudash asked if we can get rid of some of the equipment that isn't working or don't use to lower the costs. Gary said we are ensuring a backhoe loader

that doesn't move and asked what the 2006 Snow Bear Trailer is. The Mayor responded that that is the landscaping trailer for the lawn tractor.

### Open Space

John Stratz said the open space expenses is very contingent on tree removal costs. John asked can we remove a huge branch to guarantee if it falls, it goes the opposite direction of the house. Bev said there are a lot of factors on that and you can't be sure which way it's going to go. She asked John to look into how other municipalities deal with this issue.

Bev mentioned that we need to determine what we are going to do about lawn maintenance for all properties: two Taddei entrances, the Memorial at the rec. field, borough hall, the police department and pump stations. Joe suggested having Anthony do some of the grass cutting and sidewalk shoveling. Mark will ask our insurance broker if it is a liability issue.

### Ordinance

Mark asked the secretary to get a quote from General Code for 2021 codification expenses. We may do one more by the end of the year. Bev said if you are looking at the curb & sidewalk ordinance for next year, you need to budget for the legal and engineering fees also.

### Public Safety

Joe said this was previously discussed. He said if we can cut 2% in administrative, that would be good. Bev found out that the CAD system is going to be running. We need to make sure we have the computers needed to run with the software.

### Streets

John Stratz said the borough is responsible to maintain 5.2 miles of borough streets. The most expensive way to maintain a road is to wait until it completely fails then repave. The most cost-effective way is to have a road maintenance program. Repairing and sealing roads before they are too far gone. This can effectively delay repaving for decades. He would like to have Oak, Manor, Holly, Highland and Rumpf Avenues to have a double application of a chip seal and a slurry seal. We can put off Highland & Rumpf Avenue until 2022 if necessary. All five streets can be reconditioned for \$167,000 to \$170,000. John will forward that information to Beverly. We also need to budget for street sweeping. The Mayor said we need to have them done six times per year as required by our MS4 permit. Mark asked if other boroughs use the same street sweeper. Maybe we can go in on the costs at less expense. Beverly said that Hulmeville does it for Memorial Day. The Mayor said Reilly Sweeping charges by the hour. Beverly said she has one quote for snow removal from Grimmer Construction. He agreed to meet our insurance requirements as he did last year. We also need a proposal from Pothole Killers. John Stratz said it costs \$1,800 for the truck. He was pleased with the job that Anthony and the Mayor did this year on pothole repairs. Bev asked him to get a back up quote.

### Sewer

We completed Quadrant 1 and need to do Quadrant 2 of the I & I Remediation program. Estimated expenses for Quadrant 2 is \$50,000 to \$70,000 for repair and inspection. John needs documentation on the loan we are going to take out so Carol can bring that to the County for an extension.

### DVRFA Loan

The DVRFA is handling and preparing the ordinance and advertisement to authorize for advertisement at the 11/9/20 meeting. We may need to meet on 11/16 to get everything done in time. The November meetings are on 11/9 and 11/23. Both were changed due to election day.

Refuse

The annual increase needs to be considered.

Persons to be Heard

**Tom Sodano, 126 W. Woodland Avenue**, Reilly doesn't charge for mobilization. Having a part-time employee do shoveling and grass cutting is a liability and health insurance is completely different for that. It is cheaper to let the snow plowing company have a day laborer take care of it. Loading and unloading lawn equipment onto a trailer is different also so the insurance company should look into that also. The slurry for fixing potholes that they use is the same that you get at Home Depot with stones and it doesn't like snowplows. Also, it isn't an overlay it is a coating. You can't drive on it for 3 days. Most guys that use it warm it first. But it is a cold sealant and pretty close to what you use on a driveway.

**Terry McIntyre, 335 Hulmeville Avenue**, suggested using a dehumidifier and a couple of fans on the basement water situation. He also suggested having someone come out to trim back the trees. You also have to notify the solicitor about the pipe change for the wording of the agreement. His wife turned her ankle on Hulmeville Avenue. He asked if Council know when it is going to be repaved because it is in bad condition. He was told to contact PennDOT District 6 since we haven't heard anything about that.

MOTION BY BEVERLY WOLFE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:44 P.M. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by:

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Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer