

Town Hall/Virtual

June 2, 2020

Chairman Mueller called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. Trustees Gabram and Port were present. Fiscal Officer Karen Walder and Trustee Assistant Melissa Palmer were also present. The following Department Head was present: Fire Chief John Frazier.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mrs. Walder discussed the Fire Department's summary of their 5 year capital needs: a total of almost \$331,000 for 2021, with a grand total of \$1,284,559.00 in capital needs through 2025.

Chief Frazier discussed replacing the mule in 2021 because the current one is a 1968 and is budgeted for \$24,500.00. Chief Frazier stated that the SCBA Packs are 15 years old and will need to be replaced in 2021. He has applied for an EMS Fire Grant which could cover roughly 85% of the \$178,442 cost.

Mrs. Walder discussed the revenue and stated that a little over \$1.2 million will come in tax levy revenue. Mrs. Walder stated that we are still currently paying on the Fire Station Bond so out the \$1.2 million \$188,000.00 will go towards paying down the bond.

Mrs. Walder discussed the expenditure trends and O&M. Mrs. Walder stated that from 2018 to 2019 total expenditures went up just under 10% and O&M increased just under 5%.

Mrs. Walder discussed the cash reserve and noted the inclusion of the annual debt payments for the new Fire Engine, due to the timing of the repayment schedule which falls in the 1st quarter. The total recommended cash reserve for the Fire Department is about \$864,000.00. Mrs. Walder stated that the Chief should be commended because over the past several years the department has managed to rebuild their cash reserve following the 2017 purchase of the Fire Tender.

Mr. Mueller would like to revisit the pro-rated payment made by the Fire Department as part of the 2019 OPEC-HC healthcare settlement; proposing that the General Fund return \$70,000 to the Fire Department. Mr. Gabram suggested a look at each Department's contribution.

Chief Frazier advised the Trustees that when the Fire Bond Levy ends, he would like to put on a .8 or .9Mill Levy to make 3 firefighters full time. A discussion followed regarding the "net costs" of a full time FF replacing several part-time FFs. Chief Frazier estimated the net added cost for 4 full time firefighters at \$300,000 annually. Based on 2019 values (2020 collection), a new Levy of 1M will yield \$270,135 per year.

Ms. Port asked the process to dispose old equipment. Ms. Palmer advised that GovDeals has offered to assist the Township in posting the old Fire Tender.

Mr. Gabram made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Jim Mueller, Chairman

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Sustar