

BUDGET WORKSHOP

President Ramsey called the 2012 budget workshop to order at 7:00 pm on December 1, 2011, in the auditorium of the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie PA. Council members in attendance were Chris Becker, Robert Bogert, Dorothy Kociuba, Jean Nagle, Guy Ramsey, Joseph Sikorski and Mayor Rickie Hoffman. Council Elect Members Debra Cope, Greg Hutchison and Linn Walker were also in attendance. David Boyko was absent. Also present were Borough Manager Chris Boehm, Public Works Supervisor Tracy Smith, Chief Ed Harry, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Doris Horner, Macungie Fire Chief Michael Natysyn and Administrative Assistant Cynthia Hartzell.

Borough Manager Boehm presented a balanced budget with no tax increase. The budget gave no increase for non-union wages, no wellness benefits for non-union employees and the purchase of a police car was not budgeted. Changes to employee positions were eliminating the mechanics position, eliminating a full time and the 30 hour police officer, reducing the weekly hours for the Administrative Assistant to 24 hours, the Macungie Institute Building Coordinator position to 24 hours for 7 months and moving the EIT Collector employee to the Macungie Institute Building Coordinator position for 5 months. With the elimination of the mechanic, line items for vehicle maintenance and small tools were increased for outsourcing. To balance the budget, part of the carryover for 2013 was used. Borough Manager Boehm noted she does not recommend approval of this budget. She commented that the current services would not be able to be provided to the residents who like the quality of life in the Borough even though they do not want a tax increase. Council looked at the presented budget and the items that Borough Manager Boehm removed to balance it.

After discussing the 2013 carryover, Council decided to increase the 2013 carryover to \$350,000 to cover expenses for the first 3 months of the year until property taxes are received.

Council went on to look at the employee positions that were eliminated. When addressing that employee position, each department head commented on the need for the employee. Public Works Supervisor Smith noted the good condition of the vehicles and equipment including small tools since the mechanic has been hired. He noted the mechanic also helps with paving projects, snow plowing and other work that the department does. Chief Harry explained the need for the 6th full time police officer to help with the scheduling for 24/7 coverage. He noted he would be able to work out the scheduling without the 30 hour police officer.

The discussion led into talking about the Macungie Institute. It was noted the Macungie Institute is the only recreation that the Borough supplies for the residents due to the parks in the Borough being privately owned. When purchased and renovated, it was known that the building would not be self-sufficient. Macungie Institute Trustee Michael McCready commented the work done by the Building Coordinator would not be able to be done with a 24 hour position. Borough Manager Boehm remarked without the Administrative Assistant being a full time position, she would be doing work that would not allow her to do her job as a Borough Manager.

Council added the mechanic, a full time police officer and increased the Macungie Institute Building Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant position to full time in the budget. The budget deficit increased to about 3 mils of taxes. Borough Manager Boehm provided a

spreadsheet showing the annual property tax increase per millage. Council Members agreed with the budget as discussed with a 3 mil tax increase.

Borough Manager Boehm presented the Liquid Fuel Fund. It was a balanced budget that included the resurfacing of West End Trail.

Borough Manager Boehm reviewed the proposed sewer budget. With an increase to the property taxes, she would not recommend an increase to the sewer rates as proposed. There would be some changes with the payroll for the non-union employees and the sewer budget would have a slight deficit.

The liquid fuel fund and sewer fund will be as proposed.

The next budget workshop will be December 5 prior to the general meeting at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hartzell
Administrative Assistant