

Middletown Township Board of Supervisors
Budget Workshop

October 18, 2021
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Tosti called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Mr. Tosti, Ms. Strouse, Mr. Ksiazek and Ms. Quirple were present along with the Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Finance Director Mega Bhandary, several department directors, and various staff. Ms. Payne was not in attendance.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. 2022 Budget

2022 Budget Process

Ms. Bhandary outlined the agenda and explained the work completed to this point in the budget process. She also shared that a second budget workshop will be held in one week on October 25th. The preliminary budget will be presented to the public on November 15th and final approval can be made at either the December 6th or December 20th meetings.

Overview of Proposed 2022 Budget

Ms. Bhandary reviewed the overview proposed 2022 Budget and spoke on the remainder of the projected 2021 overall proposed revenue and expenditures.

She noted that there will not be a need to transfer 1.1 million as anticipated or dip into any investment funds. Ms. Bhandary shared that the proposed budget does not include any possible grant funding that could be received, specifically for capital projects.

Members of the Board of Supervisors had various questions about the American Rescue Plan Relief Funds received so far. Ms. Teoli Kuhls and Ms. Bhandary were able to clarify and answer their questions.

General Fund

Ms. Teoli Kuhls provided an overview of the General Fund including projections and trends in revenue and expenditures. She indicated that the Township was in strong financial health overall despite the 2020 crisis; the Township received AAA Bond Rating, the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award and Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the third year consecutively. She explained that the the American Rescue Plan Relief Funds totaled \$2.3 million, and the same amount will be received next year.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls noted that the Township received a 1.14% renewal for health insurance in 2022. Ms. Teoli Kuhls noted that switching to Delaware Valley Health Trust has been a positive impact and the Township has received a multi-trust discount for workers comp and medical.

Ms. Bhandary shared that the Earned Income Tax (EIT) is expected to be higher than budgeted at 8.4 million.

Ms. Quirple questioned if the Township anticipates losing EIT revenue. Ms. Bhandary responded that she feels that there could be a lag and possibly not until next year.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls shared a breakdown of the Township's Real Estate Tax millage.

Ms. Strouse questioned whether the open positions were included in the proposed 2022 Budget. Ms. Teoli Kuhls confirmed that they were included.

2022 Capital Project Priorities

Mr. Valla provided a list of all capital improvement projects with a recommended priority level to the Board of Supervisors. Projects will be discussed in detail at the next budget workshop.

Mr. Valla noted that at the Board of Supervisors meeting two weeks ago each department categorized their requests.

Mr. Tosti asked if the budget assumed that no funds are received for the RDA grants? Mr. Valla confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Valla pointed out that there is a new sustainability project category.

Ms. Quirple questioned if there were possible sustainability project grants. Mr. Valla confirmed that there are sustainability grants and that the Township had already applied for some.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls noted that she is working with a contact for possible various Township sustainability projects.

Mr. Tosti questioned Mr. Kopera, Director of Parks & Recreation about the proposed pickleball courts and the location. Mr. Kopera confirmed they are proposed for the back-parking lot at Community Park.

Mr. Ksiazek questioned if the proposed cross walks at the Langhorne Yardley Road. Ms. Teoli Kuhls added that they will be added to the Capital Projects list.

Mr. Tosti questioned if there will be funding added to the Capital Project due to the recent Fire Study and with the anticipation of the filling of the Director of Fire & Emergency position. There was discussion between the Board members and the Township staff and a suggestion of adding funding to be used and approved by the Board of Supervisors as needed.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Ksiazek moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Ms. Quirple, carried by a vote of 4-0.