

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

BUDGET MEETING

November 15, 2022

Plymouth Township Council held a Budget Meeting this evening at the Greater Plymouth Community Center. The following officials were in attendance:

Council: Chris Manero ----- Chairman
Karen Bramblett ----- Vice-Chairman
Kathy Bandish
Lynne Viscio
Nicholas Whitney

Staff: Karen Weiss ----- Township Manager
Kellen Jarrett ----- Finance Director

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Manero at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment - There was no public comment pertaining to any items advertised on the agenda.

Presentation of 2023 General Fund Budget - Ms. Weiss read the budget message for the record. The 2023 Budget was presented to Council on October 17th, 2022. Advertised workshop meetings were held on October 17th and October 24th with departmental directors and the Township's Emergency Services providers Harmonville Fire Company, Plymouth Fire Company, and the Plymouth Ambulance Association. Final adoption is scheduled for the regular meeting on December 12th, 2022. A preliminary budget document is available to the public this evening on the Township website.

Ms. Weiss highlighted the 2023 General Fund Budget as follows: 1) Revenues are projected at \$27,118,417. 2) Earned Income Tax represents 32% of revenues, 3) Business Taxes are 26% of revenues, 4) Real Estate Taxes are 12% of revenues. Real Estate Millage is proposed at 1.9 mills and the Fire Services Fee is proposed at .72 mills. A home assessed at \$180,000 will pay approximately \$342.00 in Real Estate Tax and \$130.00 for the Fire Services Fee. The assessed valuation for all property in the Township is \$1.677 billion. Total General Fund expenditures for 2023 are projected at \$22,696,699. This is an increase of 6.52% over last year.

The Police Department is the largest expenditure of the budget at 39%, followed by Sanitation and Public Works at 12%, Fire and Emergency Management at 8.3%, and Building and Grounds at 6%.

Sewer Fund -

a) **Rate Increase Ordinance** - Ms. Weiss stated there is a draft ordinance for Council's consideration. Mr. Jarrett recommended a rate increase of 9%, for metered water users. Ms. Viscio asked if this increase is typical from previous years or will residents be surprised. Mr. Jarrett stated last year was a 9% increase. Ms. Weiss stated the previous increases were smaller; however, the Township went a long time without any sewer rate increases.

Mr. Jarrett stated the 2023 sewer fund as budgeted reflects a \$1.9 million deficit for the year, but there is a \$3.48 million beginning balance. Mr. Jarrett stated there are three projects taking place next year, and we have enough funds to pay for those three projects. Those three projects are as follows: Slip Lining- \$400,000, Plymouth Interceptor Phase 3- \$1 million, and Ridge Pike Sewer Replacement- \$700,000. Ms. Bramblett asked where this would leave us at the beginning of 2024. Mr. Jarrett stated \$1.5 million. Ms. Weiss stated what has made it difficult to plan for upcoming years, is the Conshohocken Sewer Plant, since they are not honoring our agreement.

Ms. Weiss asked Council if they are in favor of this sewer rate increase ordinance. Mr. Manero clarified the average sewer bill will be increased by \$5.00. Ms. Weiss stated yes, the average new sewer bill would be \$68.00 per quarter. Ms. Viscio suggested sending out a memo to non-metered users on why they did not receive an increase. Council agreed with the rate increase and an ordinance will be advertised for the December 12th meeting.

Capital Reserve Fund - Mr. Jarrett highlighted the revenues and expenditures for the year 2023 including the capital reserve amount expected at the end of the year. Mr. Jarrett reviewed the line items in the Capital Reserve and explained the purpose for each. The beginning fund balance is \$3.2 million with \$6.5 million available after a \$3 million transfer from the General Fund.

Contributions to:

a) **Fire Companies and Plymouth Ambulance** - After some discussion, it was agreed that each fire company would get a pay-per-call stipend of up to \$35,000, plus a 5% increase for operating expenses. Council agreed they need to know the numbers before they make a decision regarding ACT 90. The allocation for the ambulance will be \$70,000 for operating expenses and a donation of \$30,000 in fuel.

b) **Non-Profit Organizations** - The following contributions were discussed and deemed appropriate for 2023: Norristown Public Library - \$18,256- 2) Visiting Nurse Association- \$5,000- 3) Colonial Neighborhood Council Meals on Wheels- \$5,000- 4) Elmwood Park Zoo-

\$5,000- 5) Victim Services Center- \$1,000- 6) Retired and Senior Volunteer Program- \$2,000- and 7) Montgomery County Emergency Services- \$1,500.

c) Youth Sports Leagues - The following contributions were discussed and deemed appropriate for 2023: 1) Plymouth Jr. ABA - \$3,500 - 2) Colonial Soccer - \$1,500 - 3) Plymouth Little League - \$5,000 - 4) Greater Norristown Wrestling - \$2,000 - 5) Plymouth Whitemarsh Ice Hockey - \$4,000 - 6) P.W. Spartans Football and Cheerleading - \$5,000 and 7) Mt. Carmel Legion Baseball - \$1,000.

Miscellaneous:

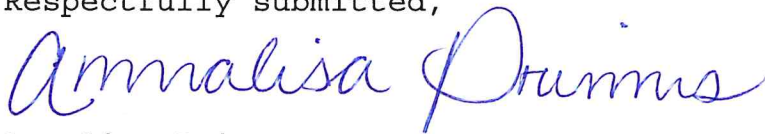
a) 2023 Millage - Ms. Weiss stated the proposal is to increase the millage from 1.8 to 1.9. Therefore, the new rate will be 2.62 mills, which includes 1.9 mills for Township services and .72 mills for the Fire Service Fee. This increase is due to pay the debt service for the Township's renovation project.

Council discussed requests that were made by department heads.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annalisa Primus
Recording Secretary