

RYE TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISORS' BUDGET WORKSHOP
October 10, 2024

PAGE 1 OF 3

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Sabo, Vice-Chairman Sean Fedder, Supervisor Brad Sloop, and Secretary/Treasurer Daisy Lightner, Elected Auditor, Cathy Sabo and John Schulze.

The budget workshop of the Board of Supervisors was held at the municipal building and called to order by Chairman Jim Sabo at 6:30 PM. The meeting was recorded to aid with the accurate preparation of minutes.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Chairman Sabo asked if there was any citizen participation at this time. None was offered.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: The Secretary/Treasurer provided the Board with the first draft of the 2025 budget worksheet listing the corresponding line item accounts for the General and Solid Waste Funds. She noted that there are several blanks in the General Fund line items where additional information is needed.

General Fund.

The Secretary/Treasurer began the discussion asking for direction from the Board with estimating and calculating the tax revenues. The current tax levy at .900 mills will remain for the fiscal year 2025. No tax increase is proposed.

The Secretary/Treasurer provided a draft of a 2025 Schedule of Tax Revenues for review. Tax revenue line items are located in the **Revenues, Section 300 Taxes, account #s 01.301.100 to 01.310.200.** Taxes are the main revenue for municipalities. Per Capita tax values are estimated slightly lower in 2025 based on two year history of payments with prior year per capita taxes remaining the same as last year. Real estate transfer taxes are increased slightly as the amount received to date is more than the amount budgeted in 2023. The largest revenue, earned income tax, was raised to \$380,000 based on receipts to date.

- **01.355.010-** Revenue for In lieu of taxes from Game Commission increased with passage of new legislation.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the **American Rescue Plan** monies. ARP Funds are to be expended or obligated by December 31, 2024. The capital equipment purchase of the new tractor/mower was previously agreed upon to be paid with ARP funds in the 2024 Budget. However, delivery is not expected until May/June of 2025. Since the funds are formally obligated with a signed purchase order, the Board agreed to hold the ARP funds to pay for the purchase of the tractor/mower and complete only a partial expenditure report in April 2025.

- The Treasury allows you an extension to December 31, 2026 to pay for a formally obligated purchase, which for Rye is the purchase of a new tractor/mower.
- \$20,000 was expended in 2024 for the volunteer fire companies.
- Total Funds estimated for use including interest earned - \$275,000. Subtract the \$20,000 expended equals \$255,000. However, the amount that is required by the Treasury to be expended or obligated and reported is **\$250,005.36.** The remainder- approximately \$25,000 of interest earned can be expended for any general use.

Chairman Sabo moved the discussion to the **General Fund - Road Expenses.**

- **01.437.450** – Discussed the prior year budget amount at \$30,000. This took into consideration the concern with the total engine replacement in the F550 dump truck and the ongoing maintenance/repairs with the tractor/mower along with any additional unexpected repairs on other equipment. Supervisor Sloop mentioned a concern with the steering in the one F550 dump truck. He plans to take the truck to LB Smith Ford before bad weather. This account was reduced to \$20,000 for 2025.
- **01.430.260**- Supervisor Sloop requested a new wacker estimated at \$3,500. The current wacker requires constant maintenance and repairs. A wacker is used for compacting soil or patching materials.
- **01.430.450**- Supervisor Sloop requested an additional \$10,000 in the 2025 Budget for grading and shale for the dirt portion of Millers Gap Road. The Board approved the placement of shale on Millers Gap in this budget year. Supervisor Sloop indicated he would contact the contractor to schedule the work before deer season.
- **01.432.232**- This account includes anti-skid and bulk road salt. Bulk road salt through Co-Stars increased from \$93.42 per ton to \$99.03 a ton. \$20,000 was budgeted for 2025.
- **01.433.215**- Line painting will be estimated after the 2024 invoice is received. Estimate for 2024 line painting completed is between \$7,500 and \$8,000.
- **01.438.215**- Entire length of Cove Road is scheduled for stoning after the logging operation is finished in 2025. Supervisor Sloop estimated at least 5 loads of 2A Mod.
- **01.439.010**- Road Construction Overlay. Awaiting better estimates from PennDOT. District 8 Representative Rick Levan has been contacted to schedule a time to come on-site to go over the roads anticipated for paving and assist with an estimate.
- **01.414.500**- Comp Plan. The update to the Township's Comp Plan is pending a review by the solicitor of the County-wide "Picture Perry" plan. Current funds are in a CD that matures in May 2025.
- **01.492.300**- Transfer to Capital Reserve. At this time no funds were designated for transfer in 2025. Perhaps reserves to offset expenses for the culvert replacement may be considered as the preparation of the budget progresses.

Highway Aid Fund.

The Board moved the discussion to the **Highway Aid Fund.** PennDOT District 8 representative Rick Levan was contacted to come on-site and provide estimates for the 2025 paving projects. The following roads are under consideration for paving for 2025 depending on budgetary restraints:

1. Heisley Road – Entire length - combined with the culvert replacement
2. Northern portion of Spruce Road- Willow St. north to end of cul-de-sac
3. Portion of Lambs Gap Road- section where base repair was completed in 2024
4. Weaver Drive- entire length including the cul-de-sac

The allocation estimate from PennDOT for 2025 is \$121,112.00, which is lower than 2024. It is anticipated that General Fund monies would supplement the projects as in previous years. Noted in General Fund expenditures above - account 01.439.010.

Solid Waste Fund.

Discussion was moved to the **Solid Waste Fund**. The following items were discussed:

- The source of the **Revenue** accounts: (2) two primary sources of revenue generated by the Fund are from a small amount of interest and the collection charges paid by residents for residential and commercial trash collection fees and a small amount of State Recycling Grant monies for the cardboard recycling program.
- The rates for trash in 2025 will be discussed after more information is gathered.
- **09.403.330**- PAMS is the new trash billing agency as of April 1, 2024. A new account line item was added to the Fund and the Budget worksheet.
- **09.427.317**-The Bulk clean-up was increased to \$8,400 per costs incurred this year.
- The contract with Penn Waste sets the annual cost of trash collection at \$216,372.00. This is the second year of a two year renewal extension to the original contract that expires the end of the year 2025. The Board must either request another two year extension or go out for formal bid for trash service in mid-year 2025.
- **09.4426.368**- The two year extension for cardboard recycling expires December 31, 2024. Current costs charged per haul is \$345.00. No increase in the price per haul in 2024.
- The Solid Waste Budget will be balanced with the use of reserves. The amount for budgetary purposes will be determined when all the budget calculations are complete. However, the actual amount transferred, not the budgetary estimate, is determined in December when the final bills are paid for the year.

Other actions directed by the Board during the budget discussion:

1. Add the following to the November 6th PC Agenda: Review by the Solicitor of the County-wide Comp Plan - "Picture Perry" and Finalize updates to S&LDO.
2. Call for repair of the Township's Generac generator asap. Supervisor Sloop noted that if the electric goes out during a snow event, the garage door will not open for access to the trucks.
3. Contact Penn Waste regarding the renewal of the cardboard hauling contract, which expires 12/31/24.
4. Purchase a set of jack stands in this year's budget.
5. Contact ARCs regarding repair of the heater in first bay garage.
6. Check the front office door. There is light showing through the bottom of the door allowing cold air to enter. The threshold may need replaced. Brad offered to check into this.

The Secretary/Treasurer thanked the Board for the help and indicated she would follow up with the information discussed and the input received. The next budget workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING: With no further discussion, Chairman Sabo made a motion with a second from Vice-Chairman Fedder to adjourn the budget workshop at 8:04 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Daisy Lightner, Secretary/Treasurer