

TOWNSHIP OF INDIANA

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

A public **Budget Workshop** was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Taylor. This workshop was duly advertised in the “Valley News Dispatch” on October 23, 2015, and recorded on audio cassette.

Supervisors in attendance were Paul Jorgensen, Darrin Krally, Michael Schurko, and Daniel L. Taylor. Also in attendance were Chief of Police Robert W. Wilson, Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey S. Curti, Manager Daniel L. Anderson, Public Works Foreman John Carson, and Recording Secretary/Finance Director Candace Wygonik.

Mr. Anderson began by reviewing the proposed year 2016 Budget fund totals. The proposed budget total for all funds is \$6,513,338. Each fund was summarized by department in both revenue and expenditure categories.

The following fund budgets were proposed:

General Fund	\$ 5,232,053
K-9 Fund	4,603
D.A.R.E. Fund	2,503
Rosedale Road Water District	6,482
Ottawa Hills Sewer District	38,760
Middle Road No. 1 Sewer Distr	104,524
Middle Road No. 2 Sewer District	42,592
Fairview Area Sewer District	26,277
Capital Reserve	40,015
Capital Improvement Fund	772,762
Developer's Recreation Fees	2,001
State Fund	<u>240,766</u>
TOTAL	\$6,513,338

Mr. Anderson said the 2016 Budget is based on a proposed tax millage of 2.99 mills and the Fire Tax portion of .48 mills for total millage of 3.47. Discussions centered around the proposed millage increase. Paul Jorgensen questioned what cuts can be made. Dan Anderson reviewed each section explaining that most of them are reduced from the 2015 Budget in the General Fund with the exception of Highway Maintenance which is increased for paving to \$300,000. Dan Taylor stated that it has been over 20 years since Indiana has had a tax increase other than for the Fire Departments.

Mr. Anderson presented the following budget information:

Overview

The Township budget is the financial blueprint for the policy decisions which will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year. It is the most important instrument the Board of Supervisors has for establishing control over costs and directing revenues. Budget decisions determine the level and quality of government services, which in turn, guide our community's future.

Process

The preliminary Township budget is prepared by the Township Manager in consultation with

department heads, staff members and within a framework provided by the members of the Board of Supervisors. Revenue and expenditure projections are derived from a review of historic and current trends, knowledge of local events and economic indicators.

The goal of the new budget is to operate within the financial means of the community while maintaining essential levels of services and investing in infrastructure which will enable the Township government to meet the service needs of the future.

By Ordinance, the preliminary budget must be submitted each year by November 15th. The Board of Supervisors traditionally reviews the budget in detail at a Budget Workshop meeting and receives citizen input on the contents of the preliminary budget. The final budget, which must be balanced (meaning expenditures shall not exceed revenues) must be adopted prior to the start of the new fiscal year on January 1st.

2013 was the first year when new property values derived from the Allegheny County reassessment program went into effect. Consequently, in January 2013, the Indiana Township Supervisors reduced the real estate tax millage by .54 mills from 3.25 to 2.71 mills. At the time there was still a lot of uncertainty over the amount of the final assessment figure. This was due to the large number of unsettled tax appeals; many of which involved the largest commercial properties in the Township. The Supervisors had the responsibility to reduce millage in order to avoid a windfall increase of more than 105% above 2012 receipts. For many commercial properties the appeal process extended into 2015, and resulted in the issuance of significant tax refunds for payments which were made in 2013 and 2014. Consequently, the refunds more than offset revenue gains from new construction and payments received from delinquent taxpayers. Rather than being income neutral it resulted in a revenue reduction. Consequently, an adjustment is necessary in order to properly maintain the Township's infrastructure.

Within the context of an unpredictable world, we are responsible for managing a broad range of operations in an analytical and prudent manner, the Township budget is the plan by which we protect against uncertainty from within the organization, as well as, from outside. It is intended to make our actions and the world around us as predictable as possible. The budget provides a big picture perspective and expresses priorities and directs the financial energy needed to accomplish our goals.

The 2016 budget contains funding to enhance recreational facilities, fund our Community Centers and provide support to the Cooper Siegel Community Library. It continues support for our professional police department and our three successful Volunteer Fire Departments. The budget also provides the public works department and administrative staff with the equipment and technology necessary to fulfill the Township government's operating and capital needs.

Indiana Township officials are proud of the enhancements which have been made to the Township's facilities, roads, parks, sewer and storm sewer systems. The 2016 financial plan envisioned in the proposed budget builds upon those successes and lays the ground work for the future.

No changes were made to the proposed 2016 Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Daniel L. Anderson
Secretary