

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Special Budget meeting of the Pottstown Borough Council was called to order on Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, Pottstown Borough Hall, 100 East High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, with President Toroney in the Chair.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilors present were Mark Gibson, Maureen Allen, Jeff Chomnuk, Stephen Toroney, Dan Weand, Jody Rhoads and Joseph Kirkland. Also present were Mayor Bonnie Heath, Borough Manager Jason Bobst and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach.

BUDGET REVIEW

Manager Bobst referred to Version #5, dated November 30, 2010 of the proposed 2011 budget. He advised that the Department Heads have reviewed and adjusted the budget as directed and the proposed budget reflects that the \$39.1 million dollar budget would indicate a 3.1% tax increase based on a 92% realistic tax collection rate for 2011. Mr. Bobst also noted that the preliminary assessment for the Borough has been estimated at \$818,000,000, a decline of \$1 million from 2010.

Mr. Bobst advised that the driving factors of the budget are the Parks and Recreation Fund and the Fire Fund. He explained that in previous years the allocations for health care have been incorrectly allocated. The expenses have not increased and fees are generated through programs and trips. Mr. Bobst noted that the deficit in the Fire Fund is due to the paid drivers health care. He added that the proposed tax increase to balance the budget would amount to an increase of \$25.66 for a home assessed at \$85,000 and \$30.19 for a home assessed at \$100,000.

Manager Bobst, along with Ms. Lee and the Department Heads, answered Council's questions regarding the proposed budget. Chief Flanders also explained that the Department would work with half the request made for a replacement of nine vehicles and accept the replacement of five. He also explained the cost of wages, overtime, equipment, clothing and the rifle range.

Mr. Bobst also advised that the Mini-Golf Park would be coordinated with the High Street Bridge construction for an additional revenue source for the Parks and Recreation Department. He also reviewed the PCTV fund, noting that PCTV's revenue must support its operations and cannot depend on anticipated grants.

Councilor Rhoads questioned the due, subscriptions and membership dues and suggested this be reconsidered.

The Department Heads explained the advantages of paying the dues for related organizations and the cost savings in being members of these organizations.

Mr. Bobst explained the change in Liability Insurance for a preliminary savings of \$48,000. He also advised that the cost of the Fire Fund is driven by the increase in health insurance from \$135,000 to \$197,000. There would be no increase in the allotment.

Mr. Gibson motioned to advertise and make available for public inspection the proposed budget for 2011 with total revenues in the amount of \$39,124,519 and total expenses at \$39,124,519 resulting in a 3.1% tax increase. Mr. Chomnuk seconded the motion.

President Toroney opened a public hearing to accept public comment at 8:25 p.m. Hearing none, the public hearing closed at 8:26 p.m.

President Toroney requested a roll-call vote.

Allen	yes	Rhoads	yes
Chomnuk	yes	Weand	yes
Gibson	yes	Toroney	yes
Kirkland	yes		

Motion carried: 7 ayes.

PFHA Letter – Councilor Chomnuk motioned to authorize the execution of a letter to the Pennsylvania Finance Housing Agency in support of the proposed Senior Housing development by the PIRHL Group. Councilor Allen seconded the motion.

President Toroney opened a public hearing to accept public comment at 8:28 p.m. Hearing none, the public hearing closed at 8:29 p.m.

The motion carried: 7 ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on motion by Councilor Weand.

Submitted by,

Jason M. Bobst
Borough Manager