

Pike Township  
Legislative Board Minutes  
September 18, 2020

Members Present: Dave Willis, Steve Anderson, Peggy Simmons and Claudette Peterson

Staff Present: Annette Johnson, Nabeela Virjee and Chief Chris Tragesser

Members Absent: Marcia Lomax

Minutes Taken By: Claudette Peterson (Secretary)

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**WELCOME**

Chair Dave Willis called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Willis called for a motion to approve meeting minutes of August 25, 2020. Motion was made by Member Anderson, second Member Simmons, minutes approved with no changes.

**TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE – Budget 2021 Beth Marsh**

Township Accountant Beth March reported the following.

Presented highlights of the projected budget for 2021 and discussed year to date spending which is in line for 2020.

Chairman Willis open the meeting for discussion regarding the 2021 Budget.

Member Peterson expressed her concerns and objection to the proposed increase for Trustee Johnson of \$10,000.00 and Chief Tragesser of \$18,000.00. Considering what the township and city is going through with COVID-19, and the loss of life, health care and jobs no one should be given any raises at this time. Also, the city budgets are flat, and we should follow their lead. Member Peterson also stated that the IFD fire chief current salary is \$125,000.00 and has 48 to 50 stations under his authority and the chief for Pike has 5 stations under his authority, there is no comparison with job responsibility.

Member Anderson in response to Member Peterson's comments stated that he does not believe that the elected officials should get an increase, but the first line/first responders should get an increase. He also feels that we are in danger of losing our firefighters if we do not compensation them.

Member Peterson stated the firefighters/fire responders on the front line should be compensated and that she would agree to a 4% increase considering all they had to face with COVID-19.

Chairman Willis opened meeting for public comments.

**Public Comments:**

Mike Wolley's (Pike Township Resident) questions/comments:

- How can we levy money so that the resident can get more assistance?
- What is the cost of the ads Trustee office has placed in the Pike Pulse?
- As a resident of Pike Township, I am all for the frontline firefighters getting an increase but is against those not on the frontline.
- What programs are being offered to enhance the poor relief program.
- I am concern about the lack of information through the publication and lack of outreach to the community from the Trustee's office.

Deputy Chief Trustee Virjee's response to Mr. Wolley's question about poor relief allocations for 2020:

- Trustee office could not give an accurate answer on hand, but she would get the information to him.
- Beth Marsh the accountant stated there is a \$30,000.00 increase for 2021 for the poor relief program.

Pastor Perkins (Bethel Cathedral AME) questions/comments:

- He has worked with the Trustee on the Drive thru Food Pantry and other community initiatives and he supports the increases.
- What is the poor relief budget year to date allocation 2019 compared to 2020?

Cheryl Taylor (Pike Township Resident) questions/comments:

- Has there been an audit done of the Trustee office and if the residence received the information from an audit?

Elaine Wolley's (Pike Township Resident) questions/comments:

- Can firefighters receive an increase incrementally?
- Where is the money the Trustee promised to give back to the township?
- Can that money be given to the firefighters in bonuses?

Member Anderson response to Mrs. Wolley's question regarding allocation of bonuses:

- I believe that is not legal.

Chief Dep. Trustee Virjee response to Mrs. Wolley's question regarding allocation of bonuses:

- Increases to the firefighters are given through collective bargaining and that the increase is set at 2% for 2021.

Public Comments ended regarding the 2021 Budget and there were no other items discussed. Chairman Willis called for an adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn Member Anderson, second by Member Simmons, meeting adjourned at 6:29p

Approved by the Board on October 20, 2020.



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Claudette Peterson, Secretary



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Annette Johnson, Trustee