

**Coolbaugh Township
Board of Supervisors
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The Coolbaugh Township Board of Supervisors December 22, 2009 Special Meeting was held in the Township Municipal Center, in building #3, at 5550 Memorial Boulevard, Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania.

Call To Order

Chairman Joseph O'Boyle called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 a.m.

Roll Call

Supervisors present for the meeting included: Mr. Joseph O'Boyle, Ms. Lynn Kelly, Mr. James H. Frutchey, Jr., Mr. Robert B. Hutchins and Mr. Robert M. Zito. Also present were: Jerry F. Hanna, Township Solicitor, Douglas Hein, Business Manager/Controller and Township Secretary Linda Frutchey.

Statement on the Agenda: Mr. O'Boyle announced that the Public will be given an opportunity to speak on each agenda matter. Public Input is considered at the end of the meeting for other issues.

Public Input - none.

Adoption of 2010 Municipal Budgets

Mr. Frutchey made a motion to adopt the 2010 Municipal Budget provided we 1) reopen the budget in January to consider additional millage to get the Township through 2010, as we have a \$1.3 million Tax Anticipation Loan and have been in the position of not paying our bills on time, and 2) we do a Current Obligations on December 28, 2009 to ensure bills due in December are paid prior to the end of the year. Seconded for discussion by Mr. Zito.

Discussion followed regarding the conditions in the motion and the reasons for reopening the Budget in January, including the possibility of raising the millage more than the two mill increase already in this budget, whether it had to be done by ordinance, etc.

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Solicitor Jerry Hanna confirmed that changes must be adopted by February 15, 2010 and within the same time frame for inspection and advertisement as the budget just adopted, no ordinance is needed, etc. He went on to explain that in considering raises within the adopted budget, there is a 25% limitation on what is defined as major categories and an overall 10% limit on the entire budget. Mr. Zito confirmed that basically any line item cannot go up by more than 25% or the whole budget by 10% or \$711,000.00 because it is \$7.117 million.

Further discussion ensued regarding the handling of the year end Current Obligations, bills due the PMRPD, PennVEST funds coming in that are owed to the General Fund, etc.

Mr. Zito said the budget negotiations were long and difficult, and he will reluctantly vote for it with a two mill increase. If the Board looks at the budget again in January, it needs to be comfortable with what is being provided for the taxpayers.

Mr. Frutchet said he will not be voting on anything in the budget related to his wife, Township Secretary Linda Frutchet or his son. Ms. Kelly asked Solicitor Hanna if Mr. Frutchet was required to abstain on these items. Discussion followed in which the Secretary pointed out that one year Mr. Frutchet was turned in to the Ethics Commission for not making this statement regarding his vote. No further comment was heard.

Steve Planchock, present in the audience, asked about budget cuts, reductions in personnel, operational spending at the recycling center, future increases in mills for library operations, whether the \$52 Local Services Tax was being collected from employees at the army depot, fire hydrant maintenance, gambling revenues, etc. Discussion followed.

With no further comments heard, Mr. O'Boyle called the motion and it passed 3-2 (Ms. Kelly and Mr. Hutchins opposed). A brief discussion followed in which Solicitor Hanna confirmed that the budget is adopted.

Other Business

Mr. Zito - moved to give the employees all day off on Christmas Eve, December 24th and New Year's Eve, December 31st instead of the half days previously scheduled. Seconded by Mr. Hutchins. Discussion - none. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Hutchins - said it does not look like he will be present for the Reorganizational/Business Meeting on January 4, 2010 and requested that any major decisions be tabled until he gets back. It was so noted.

Public Input

Steve Planchock - expressed concerns about flooding around the Tractor Supply construction site on SR 940. Discussion followed.

Board of Supervisors Executive Sessions

Mrs. Frutchey requested an Executive Session with the Board and confirmed that the meeting did not have to remain open.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Mr. Zito moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hutchins. Discussion - none. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Frutchey
Township Secretary

Joseph O'Boyle
Board Chairman