

**Patterson Township Board of Commissioners**

**Agenda (Pre) Meeting**

**December 14, 2017**

**Attendants:**

**Commissioner Policaro  
Commissioner Inman  
Police Chief David Stanislowski  
Asst. Chief Nick Bathgate  
Ken Fawcett, Solicitor**

**Commissioner Bradow  
Commissioner Hoover  
Rebecca Keller, Secretary  
Patrolman Kevin Thompson**

**Items discussed:**

Mr. Policaro advised the Board of the second reading of the budget(s) noting the difficulty in balancing the budget(s) for 2018 with funds being low.

Mr. Policaro opened up for discussion the possible ways to reduce expenditures:

- School Crossing Guard – is this position necessary. Students are now required to be delivered to the front door of the school, eliminating children walking to school.
- Freeze wages for part time employees for 2018. Currently there are part time employees who are making the same wages as full time employees and potentially more if increases are made in 2018. Set wages for new employees based on skill and experience.
- Discontinue the step increases for part time employees.

A lengthy discussion was held on the possibility of freezing part time wages, eliminating the step pay program, and the possibility of setting new hiring rates. A comparison with other municipalities was requested.

A discussion was held regarding the school crossing guard position. A request was made to see the agreement between the Township and Blackhawk School District regarding the crossing guard. This is to be revisited after the school year.

Mr. Hoover advised the Fire Department held their annual election where a new fire chief, Tony Ferrazzano, has been elected. Mr. Ferrazzano is in the process of meeting with the officers who won the elections to see what 2018 looks like as there are a few

open positions needing to be filled. There have been changes to the Social side, as well, Hank Crognale is President.

Mr. Hoover stated he has been soliciting bids for the replacement of the fire department roof and should have those ready for the January meeting. Mr. Policaro questioned if we were planning on replacing the roof in two phases or all at once. Mr. Hoover requested to discuss options once we receive the bids for the full roof replacement. Mr. Policaro stated the roof repair will need to be advertised for public bid. Mr. Bradow questioned if a trap door would be considered in order to allow access to the attic. Mr. Hoover advised there is no attic, there are closets on both sides allowing access to the roof.

Mr. Bradow provided information regarding contractors contacted for the doors to the municipal office and the bathroom. Beaver Valley Remodeling looked at the doors and realigned the hinges of both doors stating the doors do not need replaced. Mr. Bacorn looked at the doors and will be submitting quotes on replacing the door to the municipal office. Mr. Bradow recommended waiting until spring to reevaluate the door.

Mr. Bradow advised he and Mrs. Keller attended a meeting on the amended firework law which allows consumers in Pennsylvania to purchase fireworks; being handled by the Department of Agriculture. The state is adding an additional 12% tax to the purchase of fireworks, where 25% of the tax will go to training volunteer fire fighters. Mr. Bradow is to look into the noise ordinance in regards to the time of day and night fireworks can be used.

Mr. Hoover explained he has been gathering the requested information on used fire trucks and presented the following information

- 2009 Fiera Spartan Custom Pumper                    \$235,000
- 2008 Pierce Arrow Custom Pumper                    \$249,000
- 2007 Pierce Custom Pumper                            \$179,000
- Demo Model – 2 yr. old                                    \$475,000

Mr. Hoover continued to explain there is a cost associated with transporting the truck to Patterson Township. It is most cost effective to drive the truck to Patterson Township ourselves, we could use a company out of Florida charging \$2.00/mile to drive the truck to Patterson Township, or have the truck hauled by someone charging approximately \$4.00/mile.

Mr. Hoover expressed a concern members of the fire department have with pulling the current engine out to be refurbished. With having our truck out of service, how will our residents receive fire service?

Mr. Policaro turned the meeting over to the solicitor and the Chief of Police regarding questions about the proposed contract for police services with Patterson Heights. Mr. Fawcett advised he met with the Chief earlier, where they discussed the following

items: #8 The Township will make two patrols every eight (8) hours on every street, avenue and alley. The Chief does not believe this to be an issue. A discussion was held regarding the rewording of the item. It was agreed to change the language to state, The Township will make two patrols every eight (8) hours which would include streets, avenues and alleys. #13 The Township Police Department shall report directly to the Mayor of the Borough and in absence of the Mayor, to the Borough Council President. A discussion was held regarding the rewording to the item. It was agreed to add, nothing herein shall be construed to grant supervisory power to the Mayor or Borough Council Members. #15 The Township Police Department shall be available for snow removal and emergency call outs from snow removal and other Borough Street Department emergencies. It was agreed to adjust language to state will notify Borough Street Department. Once changes are made, copies will be distributed to all Commissioners.

Assistant Chief Bathgate questioned the Board as to the Substance Abuse Policy in regards to who is able to make the determination whether an officer needs to be tested, who the third party is conducting the testing, and the reinstatement to duty with being randomly tested for sixty (60) months. Assistant Chief Bathgate stated there was already a substance abuse policy and questioned who determined the necessity for a new policy. Mr. Fawcett advised he was not aware of the Township having a prior substance abuse policy. Mr. Hoover reiterated the Board was under the understanding there was not a substance abuse policy. Assistant Chief Bathgate is to present the prior policy to the Board. Assistant Chief Bathgate questioned the drug and alcohol testing of an employee after damage to a vehicle or any accident that requires any vehicle or equipment to be towed away from the scene stating he believes this is unnecessary. Mr. Hoover requested the Police Department to propose language to the Board they would like to see in the policy for post-accident testing stating the township needs to ensure we do our due diligence in protecting the township.

**End of Meeting**