

MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET WORKSHOP - OCTOBER 17, 2011

The duly advertised budget workshop was held on Monday, October 17th, 2011, following the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building, 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon. The following members were present.

Kenneth Artz	Chairman
Richard Miller	Vice-Chairman
Edward Brensinger	Treasurer
Cheri Grumbine	Township Manager
Sheila Wartluft	Assistant Township Manager

Fire Company Represents:

Toby Gettler, Chief	Ebenezer Fire Co
Brian Vragovich, Chief	Glenn-Lebanon Fire Co
Scott Wartluft	Glenn Lebanon Fire Co
George Gettler, Chief	Rural-Security Fire Co

One township resident attended the budget workshop.

Three of the four fire chiefs from the four volunteer fire departments attended to discuss their budget requests with the Board. The discussion started by reviewing the standard budgeted items. These items included the CO₂ meter maintenance, fuel, floor dry, and NNO/Glow-sticks. The township also pays the workers compensation insurance. Also, discussion took place regarding the one-time increases in the Fireman's Relief allocation from the State. The 2012 allocation will be back down to the 2010 allocation.

The Fire Chiefs explained the importance of maintenance for the CO₂ meters. Also explained was the shared use of many pieces of equipment. It was explained all four fire companies do not replicate certain equipment. Several pieces are shared between the companies.

Community service projects, such as National Night Out, Fire Prevention Week at the schools and glow sticks for trick or treat night are included in the budget. Discussion turned to NNO. Chief Gettler informed the Board the Fire Companies are only too happy to participate in NNO. However this year ended up costing Rural Security money when it was cancelled at such late notice. He feels strongly this is a program that should take place and not be cancelled. It is considered a community service and the residents look forward to it. Chf Vragovich questioned why something like this should be cancelled. The Board was reminded how much training and how many volunteer hours the Fire Company gives to their communities. All chiefs were in agreement that the hours are happily given, as NNO is for the residents of the community to come out to meet the police officers and other emergency service personnel. They suggested to the Supervisors that they, as a Board, inject some enthusiasm back into this project.

A question was asked about the dedicated 1 mill tax distributed among the four volunteer Fire Companies. Suv Miller asked if the amount shown is an increase from last year. Chf Gettler stated

this is one issue that the fire companies would like to discuss with the Board. Mgr Grumbine informed the board that she has shown an increase in the dedicated millage from 1.0 to 1.5 mills for 2012. This will reflect a projected increase in the annual contribution to each fire company from \$26,000 in 2011 to \$39,000 for 2012. Some conversation took place about the pros and cons of a separate Fire Tax. The separate Fire Tax would be shown on the annual Resolution adopting the budget. Currently the 1 mill for the fire companies is shown on our Resolution under the general real estate mills but is listed for the fire companies. When the board first dedicated a mill for the fire companies the current tax collector was unable to list on 1 bill as a separate line item, so we would have had expenses relating to another billing, such as the bill, envelopes, postage, etc. Thus, we determined it best to dedicate 1 mill of the general real estate billing. Either way, the tax is only by Resolution annually and approved by the Board with the overall township budget.

Chf Vragovich explained to the Board and Mgr Grumbine the concern the fire companies have is the year-to-year question of how the budget will play out for the fire companies. There is no stability or guarantee for the fire companies. Some discussion was held about the donation campaigns the fire companies complete. Unfortunately, for the fire companies, not everyone who is getting fire protection from these 4 companies participates financially in supporting the companies. Mgr Grumbine told Brian she is hearing what he is saying and will speak to the Solicitor about it but her interpretation is the Fire Tax is done by Resolution not Ordinance.

Chf Gettler told the Board he, as fire chief of Rural Security, is asking them to consider the 3-mill Fire Tax when considering the 2012 Budget. Between required trainings, fundraisers and building maintenance the budgeted amount just is not cutting it for the fire companies. It is his opinion the 4 fire companies do not have enough time to train jointly, as a group, because they are tied down with fundraising.

Brian Vragovich stated that he, as fire chief of Glenn-Lebanon, would want to know every detail before a 3-mill Fire Tax is enacted. He told the Board Glenn-Lebanon makes their decisions as a company.

Toby Gettler agreed saying Ebenezer Fire Company also decides on issues as a group, not a single delegate.

The Foreign Fire Tax was discussed as well as available Grant opportunities. Suv Brensinger asked about state contract ordering. He was told Rural Security is a member of CoStars.

The next advertised budget workshop is for Tuesday, October 25, at 1:00 PM.

The budget workshop adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheri F. Grumbine
Secretary/Manager