

BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

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19521

BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP Board of Supervisors Work Session Agenda October 11, 2023 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Budget

Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors
Work Session
Minutes

The work session of the Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors was held October 11, 2023 in the Township Building, 4613 Hughesian Drive, Buckingham, Pennsylvania.

Present:	Paul Calderaio	Chairman
	Maggie Rash	Vice-Chairman
	Jon Forest	Member
	Dana S. Cozza	Township Manager
Not Present:	Daniel Gray	Township Engineer
	Craig A. Smith, Esquire	Township Solicitor
	Tom Kelso	Township Water/Wastewater Consultant
	Luke Rosanova	Bucks County Planning Commission

The work session began at 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Pistory said that she had not yet received the health insurance quote for 2024 so that number was not firm in any of the budgets being discussed this evening.

Budget – Water and Wastewater Department

Mr. Clark, Director of the Water and Wastewater Department, was present along with Mrs. Pistory, Director of the Finance Department, to discuss the projected 2024 budget.

Water

Mr. Clark said the biggest increase on the water side in operating expense is Laboratory. Mr. Clark said laboratory services were increased by \$15,000 to \$38,000 generated by PFAS testing required in most of the water systems. He explained the test runs \$1,800 each and must be done quarterly for the Cold Spring and Furlong systems in 2024.

- Cleaning Supplies. Mrs. Rash noted it was increased 100%. Mr. Clark replied this includes chemicals for the water and wastewater plant. Mrs. Pistory noted it isn't a lot of money, just a large percentage.

- Electricity. Mrs. Rash noted the cost was decreased. Mrs. Pistory said that was due to a higher estimation in 2023 when the new contract first came into effect. .

- Repair and Maintenance of Equipment. Mrs. Rash questioned the 30% increase. Mr. Clark confirmed that is correct due to repair and maintenance of pumps as the system gets older.

- Continuing Education. Mr. Clark noted an increase budgeted for education/training in 2024 with some online and some in person.

Water – Capital Projects

PFOA / PFAS Treatment. Mr. Clark explained that the anticipated PADEP requirements are much more stringent than the EPA's and treatment systems must be installed in all of the township systems because there is no grace period for remediation if standards are not met.

Mrs. Pistory said that some of the money for the PFOA / PFAS and continued Arsenic treatment will come from the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds and by going out for bonds.

Wastewater

- Repair/Maintenance – Land. Mr. Clark explained \$33,000 was added to pay for repairs to lagoon liners. He also explained that contracted services such as Holicong Security, pest and weed control budgets were increased to include the new water & wastewater headquarters.

- Repair/Maintenance – Buildings. Mr. Clark said this was increased to include expenses at the new water & wastewater headquarters.

- Safety equipment. Mr. Clark said this was increased by \$1,500 to cover the cost of vests, hard hats, etc.

- Mrs. Pistory noted some costs were decreased, i.e., gasoline.

- Electricity – Site #7 – Fenton's Corner. Mrs. Pistory said this item was increased as the township now can estimate the usage after taking the payment over in 2023.

- Residual Disposal. Mr. Clark explained this is contracted sludge removal for the Buckingham Village Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- Repair/Maintenance – Machinery. Mr. Clark said this 34% increase covers pump repairs and aerators for lagoons.

Wastewater – Capital Projects

Mr. Clark said the largest line item involves the construction of a new plant at Rachwal in the Cold Spring system or acquiring land to develop a new spray site elsewhere as an alternative site is needed in order to maintain the land as needed for farming purposes.

- Mechanical & electrical rebuilds – PS #6. Mr. Clark pointed out this new line item budgeting \$379,000 in the year 2026 to cover electrical rebuilds at Pump Station #6, located just south of Peddler's Village on Street Road.

Budget - Roads and Facilities Department

Mr. Hinz, Director of the Roads and Facilities Department, was present along with Mrs. Pistory, Director of the Finance Department, to discuss the projected 2024 budget.

Mr. Hinz said there are no large general fund projects scheduled in 2024, and the budget shows an increase of .42%. He said the exception is electricity, which is reduced 12.2% and may be reduced even more due to using more LEDs in the township.

- Gas. Mr. Hinz noted a bit of an increase in gasoline pricing. Mrs. Pistory explained now that the new gasoline tanks have been installed, each vehicle has a card, so usage may be monitored by department.

Highway

- Contracted Services – Snow Removal. Mr. Hinz said there is plenty of salt left over from last years mild winter, and they will be hiring a new employee who will also snowplow as George Heupel will be retiring. Mrs. Cozza said staff is currently requesting proposals for snow plowing the major routes.

Recreation / Parks

Mrs. Cozza noted the usual yearly events are included in the budget for 2024, and asked about planning the 325 year township anniversary in 2025. The Board agreed to have a celebration and will discuss their ideas.

Mr. Hinz noted the budget was increased 1.19% overall for parks.

Mrs. Cozza said that more trees are expected to be donated to the township in 2024, and Mrs. Rash said students from Central Bucks East High School will be planting them.

Mr. Calderaio requested that the fields at Holicong Park have numbered signs for identification purposes.

- Picnic Table and Park Benches– Holicong Park. Mr. Hinz said a picnic table needs to be replaced at Holicong Park due to damage, and more park benches are needed.

Park Fund – Capital Projects

- Holicong Park basketball court paint and net upgrades. Mr. Forest asked if this was in the older park section, and Mr. Hinz said yes. Mrs. Cozza said a resident had requested the basketball court be turned into two pickleball courts, but noted that the court is well used by informal pick-up games and teenagers.

Mr. Hinz noted he has observed people playing both tennis and pickleball on the new dual purpose courts in Holicong Park. Mrs. Rash proposed adding dedicated pickleball courts to the park, as many people enjoy the sport. Mrs. Cozza said that the dual purpose courts could be converted back to tennis only, if dedicated pickleball courts were installed. Mr. Calderaio suggested adding “Court Upgrades” to the budget for these purposes.

- Security camera Hansell and George M. Bush Park pavilions. Mr. Hinz reported the new security camera at Holicong Park has been useful in deterring crime, and suggested installing one onto the Bush Park Pavilion.
- Replace rotted wood for Holicong Pavilion. Mr. Hinz said the original pavilion at Holicong Park needs to be resided.
- Township building gutters and rainspouts. Mr. Hinz said the township building gutters, rainspouts and facias are rotten and need replaced. He said the roof seems to be okay.
- Audio/visual equipment for Buckingham Room. Mrs. Cozza said the township has received a few quotes to install an audio/visual system in the Buckingham Room, and they range from \$26,000 to \$80,000.
- Painting. Mrs. Cozza said \$3,000 has been budgeted to paint the Buckingham Room.
- Replacing ceiling tiles. Mr. Hinz suggested that the ceiling tiles should be replaced in the Buckingham Room, and Mrs. Pistory requested they also be replaced in the entire office area.
- Replacing porch slates. Mr. Hinz noted \$85,000 has been budgeted to replace both upper and lower porch slates with stamped concrete patios.

Highway Fund – Capital Projects

- Cold Spring Creamery path bridges. Mr. Hinz noted the wood needs replaced on all of the bridges, including the transitions.
- Hydraulic Thumb for the backhoe. Mr. Hinz explained this is a grapppler attachment to pick items up and hold them.
- Battery backups for traffic signals. Mr. Hinz said this continuing project is almost finished. He explained in the next 3-4 years, he suggests upgrading detection on all of the traffic signals with wavetronics. Mrs. Cozza suggested the upgrade may be covered under the Automated Red Light Enforcement (“ARLE”) grant.
- Liquid Fuels. Mr. Hinz said that \$650,000 is budgeted for the road program in 2024, and shared the list of roads planned for improvements.

Budget – Police Department

Chief Gallagher, Buckingham Township Police Department, was present along with Mrs. Pistory, Director of the Finance Department, to discuss the projected 2024 budget.

Chief Gallagher explained that he tried to stay within the 2023 budget amount.

- Clothing and Uniforms. Chief Gallagher said this amount was decreased by half, with only 2 new officers needing clothing and badges.
- Ballistic vests for 4 Officers. Chief Gallagher said this amount was decreased due to only 4 officers needing new vests.
- Ammunition. Chief Gallagher said this amount was decreased as the department received backordered ammunition from the year 2020. He explained they also save the brass and hand it in, which provides money to purchase extra targets.
- Replace rifle optics. Chief Gallagher explained the rifles all have the original optics, and they have found when practicing in low light they cannot see the dots, also that the

batteries run out too quickly. Chief Gallagher explained the new optics are easy acquisition and the batteries should last longer than a year.

- Ballistic Rifle Shield/Vest. Chief Gallagher explained the new Resource School Officer needs a vest. He also proposed the department acquire four smaller rifle shields, adding they are less expensive than the large ones and more effective for rifle rounds.
- National Night Out. Chief Gallagher increased the budget by \$300 as the National Night Out is a well attended and beneficial event for the community.
- Portable radio batteries. Chief Gallagher explained the batteries increased in price so the line item was raised \$100.
- AED (automated external defibrillator). Chief Gallagher noted \$1500 was budgeted in case a new AED is needed, and explained that each time one is used the pads and supplies need to be replaced.
- Gun belt / leather gear. Chief Gallagher noted this item was decreased.
- Truck inspection supplies. Chief Gallagher explained that two officers are performing truck inspections, and need a ladder to see the top of the trucks, so \$1,000 was budgeted.
- Other services and charges. Chief Gallagher said this item includes background checks as the department has been using an outside agency until a detective is added who can do this in-house.
- Support contract for Car Camera. Chief Gallagher said this item remains steady at \$7000, with \$4,500 included for the service plus storage.
- ALERT software. Chief Gallagher explained they budgeted for a full year report management system in 2024 as they transition to CODY software, which is covered from grant money received.
- PLEAC (Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission) Accreditation assistance. Chief Gallagher said \$7,000 is budgeted for reaccreditation.
- Guardian Range. Chief Gallagher explained the department budgets \$3,500 for night shoot practice.
- Grant victim services. Chief Gallagher explained this item was removed from the budget as a \$3,000 grant was received.
- Conferences and training. Chief Gallagher explained the three new officers and three new supervisors need training, along with a detective. He said they keep the training local, with minimum travel expenses.

Police Fund – Capital Projects

- Vehicles. Chief Gallagher said the department has two vehicles entering the 100,000 mile range, and has asked Fred Beans to save a hybrid SUV for 2024. He explained the hybrid should save on gas money over the car's lifetime, and upfitting dimensions are the same as the current SUV's so they can reuse the fittings. Mrs. Cozza said it would be interesting to compare the hybrid versus regular gasoline vehicle now that we have departmental gas cards.
- Desktops. Mrs. Pistory said she was working on the replacement schedule, adding that at least two new desktops are needed soon.
- Surveillance camera. Chief Gallagher said the \$2000 budgeted in 2023 was not used as it was not quite enough, and added \$3,000 more in order to get a portable live video camera system.

- Drone. Chief Gallagher reported he attended a drone demonstration in Bensalem Township and requested consideration to purchase one in the amount of \$10,000 which includes the drone which has thermal imaging, three backup batteries, and training for two officers.

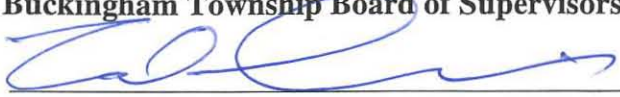
Open Space Fund

Mrs. Rash led a discussion on various parcels that may be considered for easement preservation in 2024.

8:00 p.m. *The Work Session adjourned.*

Approved by the Board of Supervisors on the 25th day of October, 2023.

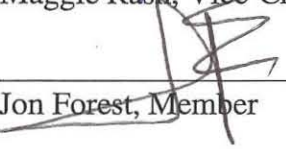
Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors



Paul Calderaio, Chairman



Maggie Rash, Vice-Chairman



Jon Forest, Member

Attest:


Dana S. Cozza, Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori Wicen.

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