

FORKS TOWNSHIP, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
Board of Supervisors

10-23-2023

Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes

A budget work session of the Forks Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, October 23, 2023, at the Forks Township Municipal Building, Easton, PA, and was called to order by Chairman O'Neil at 5:30 pm.

Board Members:

John O'Neil, Chairman
Ty Corallo, Vice Chairman
Tim Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer
Kelly Keegan, Member
Dean Turner, Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Donna M. Asure, Township Manager
Kacee Stout, Director of Finance

The work session began with a discussion concerning Suburban EMS. Present were Jeff Young, Executive Director and Bryan Dunlop, Finance Director. Suburban EMS has requested \$120,000 from Forks Township in the 2024 budget. Mr. Young presented the board with a handout that showed the rising costs of delivering ambulance services to the residents of Forks Township. The discussion included various funding sources, the need for state and county involvement and options going forward. The board will consider being able to assist in some way but they are very concerned about the funding needs to fix Frutchey Hill Road which may be as much as \$5 million dollar to fix, on continuing to work with employees to provide health care, the rising cost of the liabilities created by the police pension fund and the day to day increases in all supplies and services.

Mr. Young and Mr. Dunlap left the work session at 6:41pm. The board instructed that \$20,000 be put in the budget to supply fuel to Suburban EMS in 2024 and that discussions on this subject should continue.

The board discussed the General Capital Fund. The items requested by the department heads will be listed in the capital budget, but the department heads must be made aware that nothing is to be purchased or ordered without first coming to the board at a works session. No large capital items will be bought until April of 2024 when tax revenues start to be paid to the township. The capital fund will be depleted if everything on the list is bought in 2024 so many items may need to be pushed out to another year.

The board will receive a final version of the 2024 draft budget next week for final review and discussion at the November 2nd work session after the joint meeting has concluded.

K. Stout left the work session at 7:14pm and the board adjourned into executive session at 7:15pm for personnel issues.

The board reconvened at 7:40pm and having no further business the work session was adjourned.