

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2023

A Budget Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on November 8, 2023, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present are Supervisors Jacob Pride and Robert Lovenheim, Treasurer Frank Cefali, Budget & Finance Manager Lucas DeBartolo, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka. Supervisor Brian Barrett is not present.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 10:00AM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. New Business
 - a. Discuss: 2024 Budget. Lucas DeBartolo discusses the final estimates for capital expenditures. This \$200,000 will be used every year to prepare for capital improvements; before this, the Township used reserves but did not replace the funds. The Board discusses the Waterfront Park House, purchasing a loader and skid steer, and open grants. Projected grant layout in 2024 is \$1.2 million, and reimbursement is \$1.5 million.

At the close of 2023, the Township should have about \$1,000,000 on hand, \$600,000 of which is spoken for. The average per capita cost of EMS service throughout all townships and boroughs in the county is \$13.45 per person. The Bushkill and Suburban asks equate to \$20.25 per person, so the millage for the EMS tax has been lowered.

The Board discusses contribution splits between the fire companies, which is still pending finalization. Jacob Pride states a tax will preserve emergency services in the area and the Township must look to the future. Robert Lovenheim states he is grateful for the positive relationship the Township has with Marshalls Creek Fire Company. Lucas DeBartolo states the hope is to help the volunteer services to last as long as possible. Splits for emergency services are based on population and land area served.

Overall, taxes are being considered as follows: EMS Tax - .3 mills, Fire Tax - .55 mills, General – 1.96 mills, for a total of 2.81 mills. The average assessed value of a house in the township is \$174,818.44. The fire and EMS taxes will cost the average homeowner \$148.60 per year, with total average municipal taxes being \$491.24 per household. Lucas DeBartolo states the budget is accurate, but a few line-item numbers need to shift to align with the DCED chart of accounts.

Jacob Pride motions to advertise the 2024 budget, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

4. Public Comment – none.

5. Jacob Pride motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds; meeting adjourned at 10:24AM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Heilakka', written over a horizontal line.

Julia Heilakka, Assistant Secretary