

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council Workshop
October 19, 2016

New Holland Borough Council met in regular Workshop session on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, James S. Bailey, Terry S. Mohler and John A. Armbrust. Members absent were Patrick K. Morgan and John A. Styer. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor Wilbur G. Horning and Police Chief Donald L. Bowers, Jr.

President Herrington opened the meeting, asking Manager Fulcher to review his 2017 Budget summary outline.

Manager Fulcher then reviewed the budget outline pages. The draft appears able to utilize the same tax millage rate as used since 2012, 3.4 mills. For the first time in years, the actual assessed taxable property was down from the prior year. This should have only a nominal impact as to the estimated real estate tax receipts. The police contract calls for a 3 percent increase in wage adjustments and following a review with the Personnel Chairman, the draft budget also includes 3 percent for the non-uniform. The contribution to the ELANCO Library includes a \$500 increase; from \$14,000. The police department is scheduled for replacement of one vehicle during 2017. The payment portion from Earl Township increases from 42 percent to 43 percent for police services. Other than the phased in, three step 15 percent/5 percent per year '16, '17, '18 water rate increase, there are no anticipated rate increases for wastewater or the community trash/recycling program. In response to a question, he noted that even with the total increase in water rates, the Borough remains among the lowest in usage cost.

In continuing, he noted that other major capital items planned to be underway next year include the proposed expansion of the police department on the west side of the Borough building. This is planned to be financed by the Capital Reserve Fund. Following action authorizing the advertising of bids at its November Council meeting, the bids will be scheduled to be opened on Tuesday, December 20, 1:30 p.m. in Borough Hall. The Council President, Property Chairman and Police Committee Chairman are planning to attend. He will inform the others after the bids have been opened. The architect has included the Alternate approaches to proceeding so there will be financial alternatives, with hopefully the numbers being reasonable to proceed otherwise. The steps immediately after that if things look good to proceed, include the relocation of the tenants, then the demolition of

the apartment structure. Sealed proposals are being accepted for this activity currently. This is a separate action from the building addition contract. The formal “construction start date” will be somewhere around April 3 or a little before if possible. Concerning water activities, he noted that the engineering costs will continue through the Water fund but the actual construction of the new well will hopefully be able to be handled directly by the Authority, with funds held from a portion of the woodlands sale. Under Wastewater, replacement of the well-used Turtle Belt Filter Press is scheduled for replacement. There is a chance this can be done by way of the state contract process. The various funds are planned to split the cost of a replacement Skid-Loader. The Board of Community Memorial Park will discuss this also possibly participating with this purchase, reducing Borough fund costs. He noted that the old, original bath-house/locker room building at Community Memorial Park has reached a point where it is becoming structurally unsafe. It is envisioned that a smaller, modern restroom facility can replace this structure, which would allow for some additional green area. He is hoping this can take place through the Park Association in 2018. The proposed street and stormwater items are fairly well identified in the summary. In response to a question, he noted that the two needed pickup replacements listed for the Streets, Parks, Maintenance Department are high priority for possible year-end carryover funds. This is easier through the general fund than figuring out and using the 20 percent amount allotted allowances for such capital purchases under Highway Aid. He then noted the tentative amounts outlined for possible payments to Garden Spot Fire Rescue as provided by Council’s representative Mohler. The annual operations amount provided by the three municipalities under the pro-rated share formula, is down somewhat from this year, \$97,800, compared to \$101,308 in 2016. The Company has requested two items of additional support for inclusion by the municipalities--reimbursement of a portion of the air pack replacement cost: \$63,860; and reimbursement of a potential restroom update project, estimated by them to be \$90,000. This project at this time is requested to be funded by the municipalities. The inter-municipal formula would be applied to whatever amount the municipalities would agree to provide towards this project.

Councilman Mohler reported that the two additional requests for 2017, the Air Pack cost requested for municipal reimbursement as noted is \$63,860; making the Borough’s portion (33%) \$21,073.80. Their discussed restroom update project is estimated at \$90,000 of which they are asking the three municipalities to fund completely. He also noted that the municipalities recently received a note from Fire Company Treasurer Dennis Weaver outlining the Air Pack costs paid by the Company and suggesting the municipalities use the money set aside from their vehicle replacement fund to pay for these additional items.

Upon discussion of Council, it was the consensus that if this project should move forward, Garden Spot Fire Rescue should be responsible for payment of one-quarter of it, with the municipalities looking at properly proportioning the remainder; e.g. $\$90,000 \times 25\% = \$22,500$ from Garden Spot Fire Rescue; with the remaining $\$67,500$ to be proportional to the municipalities per the formula. New Holland's share would be $\$22,275$.

Manager Fulcher noted that these funds will be additional general funds, not coming out of the Borough's Vehicle Replacement Fund, which was set up strictly for that purpose, not to set aside monies for other non-vehicle replacement use.

A couple of major Receipt items were reviewed on the budget worksheet. Councilman Burkhart first inquired about the addition discrepancy in code 1.386.101. The $\$88,302$, which is the reimbursement by the School District for the School Resource Officer, was missed in the total column under that category. This should be corrected and is a positive addition to receipts. Under the same code, in prior years there is a larger dollar amount by year's end on this category. This will be reviewed with Financial Assistant Parker tomorrow as to what monies, such as monies received for partial reimbursement of the officer on the Drug Task Force, make this actual number higher. This may be an unbudgeted but potential additional receipt amount.

Councilman Mohler noted since his time as Councilman and his Swim Team involvement, he is aware of the ongoing subsidized costs to keep the Park's pool open season to season.

Manager Fulcher stated they will continue to maintain the pool as long as feasible until there is a real structural concern, in which case the question of the feasibility of re-building an outdoor pool will be reviewed. The Board of Community Memorial Park is planning to have a committee of its Board members, particularly a number of the younger members, look at potential future uses of the pool building and area, just to get ahead of the future situation. They are to look at low maintenance, low cost, low risk possibilities, not things such as a roller blade area or dog park; which is much more expensive to maintain than most people realize.

Mayor Horning reported he had an inquiry by a person who travels over the railroad tracks on South Ranck Road, and if the Borough has any plans to improve the surface to the north of the tracks where some stormwater piping was put in a number of years ago.

Manager Fulcher noted that they are aware of this section and the plan was to improve it after the existing six inch water line was replaced with a new eight inch. Since this is a lower priority project and the new well is taking longer than hoped, they can look at it again since that project will be awhile yet.

The members next briefly discussed the various non-government related organizations in our region and how some have a more direct positive impact than others and how they help the communities in various ways.

After brief further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

November 1, 2016

Date Approved