

**TULLYTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
February 19, 2019**

President, Nina Chrzanowski called the work session of the Tullytown Borough Council to order on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting:

Mayor Cutchineal-absent due to family illness

Councilwoman Gahagan

Councilwoman Kettler

Councilwoman Slemmer

Councilman Pirolli

Councilman Shellenberger

Councilwoman Johnson

Councilwoman Chrzanowski

Also present:

Andy Warren, Borough Coordinator

Joe McPadden, Borough Treasurer

Nancy Conner, Borough Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment from the public.

DISCUSSION—ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mr. Warren suggested a work session every quarter or so to keep everyone updated and so there are no surprises for the Borough Council officials at regular meetings.

He distributed organizational chart to Council. He advised that the auditors suggested we establish one. A copy of the organizational chart is attached to the minutes and will be on file with Borough Secretary.

DISCUSSION—ENTERPRISE ZONE

Mr. Warren advised this matter will be on the agenda for the March 5th meeting for Council's consideration.

Mr. Warren advised that 10 years ago Council enacted an enterprise zone by resolution. He added there is a difference between enterprise zone and KOZ—which is a different operation.

He added that businesses would be looking for municipalities to conduct their business included in the enterprise zone which would offer reduction in state taxes but would not affect the Borough taxes and/or school taxes.

Ms. Gahagan commented that she read on line that Enterprise Zones don't really work. Ms. Gahagan commented that the Redevelopment Authority wanted to bring County offices, doctor offices in the old shopping center. Mr. Pirolli commented that some of the old Council members were trying to do "eminent domain" which he was against.

Copy of informational email from Jeff Darwak of the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority was distributed to Council and will be attached to the minutes.

Mr. Shellenberger asked how long the businesses get continued reduction in state taxes. Mr. Warren was not certain. Mr. Pirolli commented that the key here is that it does not affect our tax base. Mr. Warren confirmed that.

PERSONNEL ITEM ON AGENDA

Mr. Warren advised that the personnel matter discussed at last month's executive session will be on the agenda at March 5th meeting.

BOROUGH PICNIC UPDATE

Mr. Warren advised there will be a reduction in cost of Borough picnic this year. He added the budgeted amount is \$11,000.

Mrs. Conner advised that the cost of Borough picnic estimated \$13,000. She added that Mike Hammar and Park & Rec Committee agreed not to pay for food and funnel cakes this year—we are going to have food trucks come in to sell food to the residents.

She added that fireworks cost last year was \$7,500—she has reach out to some companies for proposals.

WitzEnd Band was selected with a cost of \$900.

Pony Express did send in proposal – cost of \$3,450 which includes pony rides, bouncy house etc, snow cones, cotton candy.

Face Painting was \$500 last year—she has contacted them for pricing but has not heard as yet.

Regarding portable toilets, Mrs. Conner advised she received 1 quote for \$2,636. She did ask Bob Jones of Waste Management if they would be willing to make a donation and he indicated that they might donate \$1,500 -- a formal letter requesting donation was sent.

Mrs. Conner advised that she also obtained some other pricing; but for what we are offering, United Site Services seems to be the best price.

Mrs. Chrzanowski advised that we will not be doing the games so that is also a reduction in cost. Mrs. Conner did not have a total on the cost of the games but she advised the total of the entire picnic was \$21,957 last year and this year the cost approximately \$13,000.

DISCUSSION—FINANCIAL TRENDS

Mr. Warren had a visual of the Borough's budget and showed Council the breakdown on different sections of the budget such as Police Department, Administration Expenses, Public Works Expenses, Fire & Emergency, Property Allocation Gift, etc and showed the impact on our budget. A copy of that chart was distributed to Council and will be filed with the minutes.

Mr. Warren advised that we all need to try to look at opportunities for cutting back—he would also like to show this chart to employees to encourage them to partake in solutions for budget cuts.

DISCUSSION—ACT 47

Mr. Warren distributed a few reports regarding Act 47- local government commission municipal fiscal distress task force. A copy of each will be attached to the minutes. Mr. Warren commented that when a borough or township can't pay their bills, the state comes in and takes over the finances-- appoints a new manager and will place the borough into a "receivership".

Page 9 of the one document states that a state emergency board would temporarily replace the municipality's governing body to manage distress and/or the state will force the borough into being annexed by a neighboring municipality. When the state takes over they will raise taxes first.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION PREMIUMS

Mr. Warren showed chart of the past year's workers' compensation premiums. He advised that premiums are based on previous year's claims.

After summation, he concluded that next year our premium will be increased to \$130,000 and the year after it will be higher.

Mrs. Kettler commented that she sees no incentive for someone going back to work if they are on Workers' Compensation if they get paid the same amount of money being home. Mr. Shellenberger advised they actually get paid more money.

Mike Sidoti, 53 Stream Lane, Levittown, Borough Tax Collector, commented that we are looking for revenue for the Borough to survive. He stated that our millage rate of 11.5 and business privilege and mercantile rate of 15 cents on the thousand are the lowest in the area—very lowest.

Mrs. Chrzanowski suggested that we compare our Borough to municipalities that are comparable to the Borough.

Mr. Warren commented that he is looking into ways to save money—he will have a list of options for Council before budget making time in September.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Mr. Shellenberger commented that last year he and Mr. McPadden discussed the Borough going to "self-insuring". He added that we can self-insure up to a certain amount and then you pay for catastrophic insurance. Mr. McPadden said he would look into it—it might be worth it.

Mr. Shellenberger also discussed Wal-Mart using our police services. Mr. Warren advised that 17% of all calls are from Wal-Mart. Mr. Pirolli stated that Wal-Mart pays their taxes.

Mr. Warren advised that he discussed with the general manager at Wal-Mart to see if they would be willing to pay for police services. He stated that the general manager explained to him that he never heard of them doing that but suggested Mr. Warren contact corporate.

Miss Slemmer mentioned that as our police department does not have the equipment to process criminals, they need to use Bristol Township's facilities. Mr. Warren advised that we should look into sharing all kinds of equipment, etc. with other municipalities.

Mr. Sidoti, LBCJMA member, mentioned that Falls Township wants to be part of the LBCJMA.

A few Council members questioned why Falls Township would be interested.

Mr. Pirolli also questioned why the Borough isn't receiving any dividend check from the Water Authority. Mr. Warren commented that the Borough "created" the Authority and has appointed board members but doesn't think they don't own the Authority. He explained a similar scenario with SEPTA. He did advise that he will still research this. Mr. Sidoti commented that the "information session" with the LBCJMA might be a good time to address this question.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Pirolli to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Miss Slemmer. All of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Conner
Borough Secretary