

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION

May 18, 2009

The regular meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Budget Committee of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Lower Makefield Township Building on Monday, May 18, 2009. Mr. Shiller called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Citizen's Advisory Budget Committee: Brian McCloskey
Ethan Shiller
Greg Caiola
Kenneth Martin
Tony Spisto
Michael Landy
Joe Menard

New Members:

Mr. Shiller welcomed the newest members to the CBAC, Mr. Joe Menard and Mr. Mike Landy. Mr. Shiller than gave a brief overview of the mission of the CBAC and asked all present to provide a brief introduction of who they are and their background.

Open Space Bond Issue:

Mr. McCloskey was asked to research the ability of the township to borrow funds via a bond issue, as approved by voter referendum, and to have these funds invested until we have a formal course of action. Mr. McCloskey reported that after discussions with our bond professionals, this is not a permissible action without a formal bond issue request, which would include planned spending, within a specific time frame. Mr. McCloskey reported that both he and Mr. Fedorchak are in frequent communication with the township's bond professionals looking at the ability to convert our variable rate bonds into fixed. As of now we do not have the ability to do so because of time restraints with some of the bonds.

Overhead:

Mr. McCloskey was asked to provide the methodology for how the township charges overhead from its enterprise funds (Pool and Sewer) into the General Fund. Mr. McCloskey provided a spreadsheet and a detailed discussion followed. The committee was interested in discussing the merits of instituting an overhead charge to the golf course, as the course has yet to contribute anything back to the township as far as overhead.

The CBAC felt that the golf course and committee should be made aware of the township's desire to have the course contribute back to the general fund in the form of overhead, much the way the other 2 enterprise funds do. It was decided that Joe Menard would draft a letter from the CBAC to Terry Fedorchak, recommending that the course contribute to the general overhead of the township, beginning with this next budget year, 2010.

Fund Balance Policy:

Mr. Shiller asked Mr. Caiola about the draft of the Fund Balance policy, whereby the township would be required by resolution or policy, to present a general fund budget each year that keeps our cash position within what is known as the "Safe Harbor" range. Mr. Caiola reported that while the BOS agrees with this in principal, the overall feeling was that by approving such a policy or resolution, the current BOS could restrict the way a future BOS needs to manage the townships finances. A discussion then ensued and Mr. Shiller requested that the CBAC bring this up when they report to the BOS, at the August 2009 meeting.

Web Site:

Mr. Shiller questioned why we haven't loaded the rates of the trash haulers on the townships web site, and Mr. McCloskey and Mr. Caiola both felt that this could lead to unnecessary exposure to the township, and Mr. Menard further added the question of why only trash, why not other services in the township. The general consensus was to not post this info, but Mr. Caiola indicated he would speak with Mr. Truelove about the possibility of this being done in the future.

Other Business:

Mr. Shiller stated that Fireside Bikes in Yardley has set up, free of charge to the township, bike racks in several locations throughout the township and that he witnessed one being used.

Mr. Shiller again indicated that the CBAC would meet with the BOS in August, and that an invitation is being sent to Mr. Maloney, the current Chair of the BOS, to report to the CBAC in the June meeting, to discuss his view of the website and how his plan can be integrated with the current township infrastructure.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.