

**Township of Lower Makefield
Citizen's Advisory Budget Committee Minutes
November 9, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Golf Committee of Lower Makefield was held in the Lower Makefield Township building on Monday, November 9, 2009. Chairman Ethan Shiller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Citizen's Advisory Budget Committee:

Anthony Spisto
Brian McCloskey
Ethan Shiller
Joe Menard
Kenneth Martin
Roger Owen

Absent:

Michael Landy
Colleen Klock

Others:

Greg Caiola
Terry Fedorchak

Mr. McCloskey reviewed the 2010 budget summary.

General Fund:

Mr. McCloskey reported that the General Fund includes a recommended tax increase of \$1 to \$1.5M or \$60 per year to the average resident to maintain the current level of service for a fund balance within the safe harbor of 5% of total revenues. The budget tax loss in 2009 vs. 2010 is significantly higher with \$150K in current expenditures in the police budget that is funded by a grant and with a pension contribution of \$335K increase mandated by the state. He stated that the general fund expenditures are less in 2010 by \$70/80K.

Mr. Menard suggested the following:

1. Recommend a tax increase to cover the \$335,000 and take \$100,000 out of surplus.
2. As pension returns go down in the future, we should get the millage back or a tax cut.

Mr. McCloskey asked the Committee if \$335,000 is taken out of the general fund, would the Committee approve a $\frac{3}{4}$ millage increase and fund the pension obligation?

Mr. Caiola stated that they would be looking at options and \$1.5 was the first recommendation. The Committee can still make recommendations and

recommendations are put into play as part of the process. The committee should not look at the \$1.5M increase without discussing and putting a number out there. Mr. Shiller stated that the bottom line is he is not pleased and requested a review to determine which expenses are viable to be cut.

Discussion ensued on the following items as a means of reducing the tax increase:

Fund balance

Capital Reserve Fund

Traffic Impact Fees

Cut staff

Not mowing retention basins

Delay filling upcoming vacancies in the Police Dept

Veterans Committee Memorial

Monument

Parks and Recreation

Community Pride Day

Mr. McCloskey stated we could take out \$335,000 from the capital reserve but we would still need to take out an additional \$125,000. Mr. Menard stated that the committee now has a laundry list to consider and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at their meetings scheduled this Tuesday thru Thursday.

Mr. Shiller asked if there was any other business. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50.