

CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
Monday, December 1, 2014

Conyngham Borough Council met in Special Session on Monday December 1, 2014 at 6:03 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary Gregory, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.

Roll Call:

Present: Fuccile, Gallagher, Gregory, Hawk, Jones, Schneider.

Absent: McKee.

Others Present: Mayor Carrelli, Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

Absent: None.

Citizens: Linda Grencavich.

Public Comment: Linda Grencavich stated she has concerns over reducing police hours. The reason there is no crime in Conyngham is due to the coverage.

Mayor: Nothing at this time.

Treasurer: Treasurer Blasé discussed the list of assumptions regarding draft three of the 2015 Budget. Under Revenue the only change was the addition of a \$5,000.00 Shade Tree grant. Under Expenses the Legal Fees were reduced further as well as the part time police hours. As discussed this draft includes 29 hrs per week down from 32 hrs per week for part time officers. Shade Tree expenses were added assuming the grant is received. The debt service is listed without refinancing.

Councilman Gallagher questioned the basis for the real estate tax collection figures and whether any consideration was given for significant reassessment by residents.

The 2015 real estate tax collection budget figures were based on the 2015 Luzerne County Assessor's Office certified tax rolls.

Treasurer Blasé advised Council it is not reasonable to refinance the existing paving debt based on the variable rates offered.

Grant Revenue and Expenses are not reflected in the 2015 proposed budget with the exception of the Shade Tree grant.

President Gregory stated if things go right more funding should be received including the \$80,000.00 that was utilized for building renovations for 245 Main Street. Renovation expenses are reimbursable through the LSA grant.

Councilman Gallagher noted a Master Plan is needed for grants with regard to matching funds being included in future budgets.

Discussion ensued over the possibility of bidding out some of the expenses such as insurance as well as garbage collection.

Committee meetings will be held Wednesday, December 3rd to review employee healthcare, grants and police budgeting and scheduling.

President Gregory suggested putting the potential savings from healthcare under "Improvements other than Building" for the Street Department.

Solicitor: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

Catch All: Councilman Gallagher stated that Sue Manchell from Verizon Wireless will revisit placing a cell tower on Borough property. Conyngham Borough Authority has stated they are not interested. President Gregory added that an executive decision was made by Chairman Rizzo on the

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cell tower proposal. The original proposed location for the tower was at Whispering Willows Park. Council will consider the pros and cons of the location. The Borough stands to gain up to \$1,500.00 per month in potential lease revenue. The Solicitor will pursue easements if necessary.

Councilman Jones updated Council on Christmas in Conyngham which will be held on December 12th.

President Gregory added that the Mayor and Council have been invited to participate in the parade with a 6:00 pm start. Grounds will be open at 5:30 pm.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:28 PM – Gallagher. Second – Schneider.

ATTEST:


Secretary