

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

**MARCH 1, 2017**

Council President Cartier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:**

Council Members: Norma Trueblood, Jason Allen, Donovan Gardner, Letha Jackson and Kenneth Cartier; Mayor David Patriarca; Business Administrator, Dennis Gonzalez; and Township Clerk, Amy P. Cosnoski.

Council President Cartier advised that today's meeting was for the discussion of the 2017 Municipal Budget and that formal action may be taken. Council President Cartier asked Council if there was anything they had questions about.

Councilman Allen stated that he had met with the Mayor the day before to review the budget and that after review it is a solid budget and he likes some of the ideas and purchases that are being considered for the coming year. Questioned under Tax Collector it notes that K. Smith resigned and asked if the position would be filled. Mr. Gonzalez noted that Ms. Smith's replacement is the employee listed immediately below her. Councilman Allen questioned under Law & Engineering we did not use a planner in 2016 but are charging money to that line this year. Mr. Gonzalez advised that it primarily has to do with the contracts that they will be bringing to the Council one by one for approval for a planner to form perform studies for areas in need of redevelopment and for the writing of redevelopment plans for a couple of the areas including Route 206 and North Pemberton and the County College area. Stated that it will not be expended unless they come to Council for contracts. Councilman Allen questioned under Code Enforcement an employee is getting 4% and 6% for longevity and asked for an explanation. Mr. Gonzalez noted that this indicated that this employee is part of the year at 4% and then the anniversary date is the middle of the year moving them to 6%.

Council President Cartier stated that he concurred with Councilman Allen's thoughts on the budget and thinks it is as tight as he has ever seen it. Questioned how much we have spent over the years on the Pot Hole Killer. Mr. Gonzalez noted it was about \$27,000.00 each including the material and this was out third year. Noted that we lease it for a period of about a month and get about 2,000 pot holes done. Council President Cartier asked how much it would cost to purchase outright. Mayor Patriarca noted that he had found out and it is about \$250,000.00 and you still have to buy the material. Mayor Patriarca noted that the County had bought one last year and we are leasing from the same company they purchased through. Council President Cartier noted that it would be interesting to see if a couple of towns could do a shared service for a project like this but that this process seems to be working for now. Mr. Gonzalez noted that about \$10,000.00 of the cost was for the material which we would still have to purchase.

Councilman Gardner questioned being on a waiting list for the machine. Mayor Patriarca explained that this is a hot item right now and that towns are using them more which might explain why the County went out to purchase their own last year. Councilman Gardner asked if the Pot Hole Killer works as well in the winter as it does in the warmer weather. Mr. Gonzalez advised that he thinks it is better to do during the warmer weather. Noted they have had Public Works go back and inspect the prior years pot hole fills and they have been pleased with how they hold up better than the cold patch. Commented that we would not have to wait that long and we would get it in the warmer months. Further discussion ensued on what the Pot Hole Killer is and how it works. Mayor Patriarca noted that they also go out and fill the potholes with hot patch during the winter months.

Councilwoman Jackson commented that under Police there are 7 Police officers that retired and we are looking for 9 new officers and asked when we would be getting these new officers. Mr. Gonzalez advised that we are waiting on the results from the Police Officers exam through the Civil Service and they hope to have the list of eligible officers within the next 2 months and once they have the list they will begin the process to evaluate candidates. Noted they are looking to hire half at they end of spring or summer and then do another

hiring at the end of the year. Also noted that he feels we may need 3 more officers in 2018. Councilwoman Jackson asked about the 4% and 8% under Police. It was noted this was the same situation as previously asked by Councilman Allen. Councilwoman Jackson asked if crossing guards were in our budget last year. Mayor Patriarca noted they started last year with crossing guards again because the school district went to a walking district. It was noted that this cost is our responsibility and not the school districts by statute but that they do help us by putting people out there to help students get to class. Councilwoman Jackson questioned the vacant recreation coordinator under Recreation and asked if we would not be filling that position this year. Mayor Patriarca noted they did not budget for it but that when they do fill it the bottom line will cover that position. Mr. Gonzalez noted that traditionally there have been 3 positions in that department and that they put that in there to make them aware that it was their intention at some point to have a recreation coordinator.

Council President Cartier stated that he noticed one of our Police EMT's was retiring effective today and asked if there were plans to replace this position as to the EMT portion of it. Mayor Patriarca advised that this would be up to the Chief and is eligible to anyone who wants to do but they do not have to do it.

### **PRESENTATION**

Mayor Patriarca presented his power point presentation of the 2017 Budget for Council and advised on several points for this years expectations including salary and wages and total debt. Noted he feels this is a responsible budget.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Cartier opened this portion of the meeting for public comments.

Seeing no residents wishing to be heard Council President Cartier closed this portion of the meeting to the Public.

Mr. Gonzalez advised that the State has already reviewed the annual financial statement and the budget and they typically will follow up with a letter highlighting the questions that they have. Stated they have 3 small items that they have referred to the Auditor from the annual financial statement that the Auditor will take care of. Noted that there were also 3 relatively insignificant questions for the CFO who will take care of this tomorrow. Advised that we may hear from them within the next week or so. Council President Cartier asked that those questions be forwarded to Council. Council came to a consensus that a second budget meeting was not needed on Thursday March 9th.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy P. Cosnoski*

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC, Township Clerk