

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPT 27, 2014
620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania**

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Flo Frei Jim Purcell Jim Ryder Justin Stottlar
Mayor:	John Hollenbach
Borough Manager:	Andrea L Coaxum
Finance Director:	Joe Berardi
Police Chief:	Steve Hillias
Public Works Director:	Dan Gilbert

The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 9:00A.M. by Finance Committee Chairman Jim Ryder. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

BUDGET 2015-INTRODUCTION

The Borough Manager covered the highlights of the Budget and expressed the fact that the budget is balanced and there are no proposed increases in taxes or electric rates for 2015. More importantly, there is a surplus in the General Fund that Council may want to utilize in 2015 by lowering electric rates. We will review possible rate reductions, in depth, at the 10/04/14 budget meeting.

The Finance Director went through the agenda for the meeting. He then covered the highlights of the total Borough spending, the Public Works Dept., and Refuse Dept. before turning the meeting over to the Public Works Director. The Finance Director then reviewed the highlights of the Police Department before turning the meeting over to the Police Chief. The major points of discussion were as follows:

PUBLIC WORKS

The building permit fees were discussed and Jim Ryder suggested that the 50% reduction in fees remain intact for the 2015 budget and Council agreed.

The salt shed was discussed in depth and Jim Purcell suggested that the expansion be done in 2014 in order for there to be a benefit for the upcoming winter. The expansion would benefit the Borough by avoiding running out of salt. The cost per ton is established prior to the start of the winter and would not be impacted by buying larger quantities. Dan Gilbert will pursue a 2014 time line regarding engineering and construction.

REFUSE FUND

The Finance Director expressed the need to raise the annual fee in the event that the Refuse Fund Balance is insufficient, at the end of 2014, to transfer enough cash to the Capital fund to purchase a trash truck. Trash totes versus trash bags were discussed with no immediate solution. The Public Works Committee will discuss further.

ROADS

The annual road survey will be conducted in the fall by our engineers. The roads will be categorized from worst to best and the worst roads will be suggested for improvement in 2015 utilizing the available funds.

OTHER

There was discussion regarding Union dues. It was stated that AFSCME dues are 1.5% of wages but payment is voluntary. The Police Union dues was thought to be \$30 per pay period. We researched this after the meeting to find that the police Union dues are \$15 per pay period.

The part-time recreation events assistant position was discussed. Justin Stottlar suggested that the Borough collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to assist in the planning and execution of events. Mayor Hollenbach expressed his concern with the practicality of utilizing the Chamber of Commerce for assistance. If the position is approved by Council, Flo Frei wants the events assistant to be a Borough employee.

POLICE DEPT

The replacement of 2 Police cars was discussed. Jim Purcell asked if we could delay the purchase of one of the cars. The Chief responded by expressing the age of the fleet and the need in 2016 to replace 2 more vehicles. If we delay a purchase in 2015, we would probably need to replace 3 vehicles in 2016.

The shooting range was discussed and the Chief expressed the delay of the spending until after 2015. Also, the local clubs could not be utilized because they do not provide an interactive target profile which is a requirement for an Officer to qualify.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

PRESS FORUM

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary