

November 17th, 2021 SPEC 3/4- Police Department

Fri, 1/21 8:55AM • 42:34

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

levy, people, levees, police department, shift, revenue, part timers, township, run, money, chief, meeting, police, lay, year, permanent, pass, ralph, department, problem

SPEAKERS

Ralph (35%), Jeff (18%), Chief (16%), John (15%), Nicholas (5%), Robyn (4%), Lt. (2%), Steve (2%), Mike (2%), Board (<1%)

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:01:28

I do just waiting now for everybody to pass out their papers.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:02:59

We good? Okay. Okay. Hey everyone, it's about 3:04 pm. And we will continue with our budget meeting. We currently have the

Jeff Wilcheck 00:03:21

license fees,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:03:22

the police department. Chief Smith and Lieutenant Ratliff has just arrived and we will continue all of them. So who wants to lead off of this Jeff, you or who should we lead off with are you thinking? Well, I'm kind of letting you direct that you got most of the accurates here anyway

Jeff Wilcheck 00:03:59

police levy Police Department font or operations. Got some major challenges with the police department. Police levy is everybody is aware there was an attempt to renew a levy with an increase that did not pass. So, it poses problems for us going into 2022. 2022 will be the last year of collection on the five-year Levy. After that drops, down to just the continuing levees that are in existence pretty much cuts the budget almost in half. Okay. Right now, based upon estimates, million 4 million million for 70 in revenue for the fire or police department expenditures of 1,000,006 61. It's going to leave them with about \$6,900 At the end of 2022. One of the big losses for the police department is the ticket revenue that came into existence from the cameras that were running the school zones. At one point that revenue was generating a sizable amount for the township. I'm looking at the budget worksheet to find it. But 300,000 years, it was between three and \$400,000 a year. That's after the collection fees. Okay. That's a major loss that would be in that major loss to the department. We've already been told that that does not qualify for lost revenue.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:05:54

That would have been nice.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:05:56

So, whether or not those tickets from the cameras in the school zone, get reinstated and collection starts again remains to be seen yet. I think Steve may be working on a couple of things with that. Even if it was to start up again. It's going to take several months before you see any revenue coming in. how many things. So, either you guys want to address something on that.

Chief Smith, Police 00:06:34

On the cameras? Yeah. it takes 60 to 90 days before you see the revenue.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:06:46

Maybe take even longer than that, sir.

Chief Smith, Police 00:06:48

Well, I mean, that's based on the last time I don't know, I have no idea.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:06:52

Or maybe a lot more fighting over it, and

Chief Smith, Police 00:06:56

everybody wants to fight over everything. So

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:07:01

my thoughts would be six months, at least

Chief Smith, Police 00:07:03

alright, six months. So

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:07:06

they were sending us revenue weekly, when it was in full swing.

Chief Smith, Police 00:07:11

No, they were, but it took about that

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:07:13

to get people to pay

Chief Smith, Police 00:07:14

two to three months. cause you have a 45 day your initial window

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:07:17

Absolutely.

Chief Smith, Police 00:07:18

But that's neither here nor there

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:07:19

Yeah. Once you get past that two-month period you might see a small revenue

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:07:25

I don't see. I don't foresee that ever coming back.

Steve Mazer, Administrator 00:07:29

Well, we have a we have a meeting Ralph, the chief and me with the representative from the clerk of courts Friday afternoon. So, we're hoping we hear good news from that. We've, we've talked to a municipal court judge, and he is trying to help us a little bit with this process. So, we'll have more for hopefully good news.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:08:03

yeah, we have that meeting Scheduled pretty quick don't we now?

Steve Mazer, Administrator 00:08:09

With the clerk? Yeah. Yeah, that's just that's this week at 2:30. So, yeah, hopefully, Chief and I'll have some positive results from that conversation.

Chief Smith, Police 00:08:26

I'm hoping it's not a regurgitation of the initial meeting we had with the same person. So, I'm anxious to see what they have to say now and, you know, but not overly hopeful. Um, so my question for Jeff to make sure nothing changed. Are we still projected to be \$100,000 short by the end of next year?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:08:49

We are at the end of 22, \$6,000 we were up around 17 to 20 but there's a couple other things that got added in

Chief Smith, Police 00:09:01

how did we originally get to 100? Because we're,

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:09:04

I think you're talking about the carry over into 23 meeting that \$100,000 Jeff That's what we were talking about.

Chief Smith, Police 00:09:12

Yeah, more specifically, I'm talking because our last meeting you guys said we needed to give these three layoff notices in December are not discovered with January. So, I want to know is that still the case?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:09:26

Yes.

Chief Smith, Police 00:09:27

Okay, well, I think that's the more important thing that the board needs to digest.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:09:32

It is to me and also that the question to the close or time levy there, our current timed Levy. That's just getting ready to expire, Was good through 2022

Jeff Wilcheck 00:09:53

Correct.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:09:56

I don't know where the gap is, I guess.

Chief Smith, Police 00:10:01

Oh, you mean why it's not gonna make it through 2022

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:10:04

Correct.

Chief Smith, Police 00:10:05

I have no idea. I have no clue

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:10:11

I'm sure that's a question we need to talk through

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:10:13

it's like why won't enough money to carry through the levy that we promised

Chief Smith, Police 00:10:17

Because we're now, we're now at the staffing where the levy was originally intended for. It was not intended to get us to 13 full time with the addition of six part time the levy was put on at a bare minimum to get us back to 11 full time

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:10:39

so, what we did is we maybe utilize a few more officers then

Chief Smith, Police 00:10:46

well we did we use the camera money and the premise was if we have the money to spend we should put officers on the street so it could be part of that reduction and in funds that we get to property taxes I honestly, I don't know. There's been so much change in everything that's hard to put your finger on.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:11:12

Big big issues are and then the other thing is the set up I guess of the well you know the funding and everything. How many, ah, Officers and things like that what it actually took care of? And I don't know. I mean, we all know we worked a lot on when the levee first passed, and once we did, we basically were using money there. That was not intended or not intended to subsidize, police. I mean, we had the money to use there I think stated we could use all that money, but I don't think when it came to the levee itself, that was taken into consideration, you know, that ticket money and all that. So, I think that's we're probably, you're looking at some shortfall. It has to be I don't know, any other way to go. But it still doesn't satisfy my head. That we had enough money in that Levy

Chief Smith, Police 00:12:38

Right.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:12:39

To not carry us through 22, you know,

Jeff Wilcheck 00:12:43

well, carry you through 22. At what level?

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:12:51

Right?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:12:52

No, that was a question of what level?

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:12:53

Oh, Okay, gotcha. So, it could be a lesser amount of people, because

Jeff Wilcheck 00:12:59

right now, you're barely gonna make it through 2022. Okay. And the budget is set. The staff levels that are allowed with revenue that's coming in, is 10 officers full time. That includes the chief and lieutenant and four-part timers. Right. At the end of the year, you're down to

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:13:32

something's got to give is what you're saying

Jeff Wilcheck 00:13:34

There's \$700,000 that will come in from the continuing levies for police. And that's only sufficient to finance four officers, and expenses.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:13:46

And two of those for being the chief and Lieutenant.

Chief Smith, Police 00:13:51

So according to we will be 191,000 shorts

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:13:54

what did you say Nick, please? , two of the four being what?

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:13:58

two of the four, again, that's going into 23

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:14:00

Okay,

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:14:01

if no more that you sort of pass, we dropped to just the two existing permanent levees of the four people two of it would be chief and lieutenant and then there would be two full time officers. That's all that the 700,000 would cover

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:14:13

Yeah.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:14:13

When you account for unemployment benefits, etc., you know,

Jeff Wilcheck 00:14:18

to the best of my knowledge, you have two chances for a Levy next year, one in May, and one in November. And a decision has to be made as to how much additional Will you ask for if any. You've got a five-mil level 4.1, isn't it? Yeah, it's a 4.1 mill levy that's up for renewal during 22, that its effective rate is only 2.7.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:14:50

I think its gonna drop to 2.7, potentially, but I know right now, it's a 2.88. If you go online and look at the levy estimator, the current 4.1 mill levy, my reduction rate is down to 2.88. So, reduction factors are taking into effect. And it's not just what the police love, yes, with all levees, dating back to when the township was first established.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:15:12

So again, a mill generates approximately \$200,000 here. So, part of what needs to be looked at is, what is the staffing levels you want for the police department. That's going to drive the amount of revenue you need to cover the budget. And Chief can explain the timing on the notices that would have to take place if the levees fail,

Chief Smith, Police 00:15:49

we would have to give six months' notice. So, if we're going to be 200,000, short not 100,000 According to this right, 191 by the end of next year, then layoff notices would have to be given January

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:16:06

are we coming up with a bunch of different numbers? I mean, because you have when you say 100,000 Now it's 200,000

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:16:12

Yeah, it was 100 now it's, Initially, I was told 100 Now, we're looking like 191

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:16:19

Hey, Jeff, he's looking at the net change in fund balance. I, that number is coming from the difference between revenue and expenditures.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:16:25

Yes,

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:16:26

the number, the 100,000 that we initially started off this meeting was I believe, because of the carryover that would be needed for the following year. That's why they were that's why we were looking at. Okay, what what kind of layoffs would have to take place during the year 22 to have enough money to sufficiently cover the first month of 23? That net change in fund balance? That is not how much you're good. That's just your difference between these two.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:16:56

Okay.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:16:58

This is what you would do. This is what you're projected to have left here,

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:17:01

Hey Nick, we need that for the minutes. What is the number,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:17:04

the number of the net change in fund balance is \$191,287?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:17:10

Negative

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:17:10

negative,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:17:11

negative.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:17:12

That's the difference between expenditures and the revenue

Chief Smith, Police 00:17:16

the problem that we have, whether it's 100,000, or 200,000, is if the levy doesn't pass in May, then all that kind of doesn't matter, because we'll be going down to one shift at that point.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:17:30

And not only that, but you would have to lay off the rest of, layoff notices for the rest of department

Chief Smith, Police 00:17:37

So as far as some money going into 23. We'll already be at one shift by then,

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:17:45

So, my question is we go back to just the levees that are on the book, take me back to when the last levee.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:17:52

Gosh, I can I can pull it up in a second,

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:17:53

No, No, No Let me, hear what I'm saying. What did it support back then?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:17:59

The two 2018 levees

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:01

The Well, the 2017 levy that we did that took effect the five-year levy.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:18:07

Because if you, No, No

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:08

the permanent Levy,

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:18:09

the two permanent levees, obviously last permanent levy was a long time ago,

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:13

it was a long time ago, there was one before that

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:18:15

rate was the cost of living was a lot lower and

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:18

They, they were 11 full time including the Chief. And that

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:18:24
on those levies

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:24
. It's pretty much it. Yeah.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:18:26
And that was probably back when in the 90s.

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:29
Yeah. And it's never been updated.

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:18:33
I came on under that levy. We also had

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:18:36
you have one passed in 1988. And he had another one passed and '06

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:18:42
Yeah.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:18:43
06 was timed?

Chief Smith, Police 00:18:45
No, 06 is permanent, we have 2 permanents together they bring in about 7.3

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:18:49
it was 2 permanent levies prior, it was not, plenty and then we didn't actually do any additional levies until the temporary the temporary which was 2017.

Chief Smith, Police 00:19:05
Yeah, it took effect in 2018. And that was

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:19:09
we actually didn't have our first permanent of levy until 1988.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:19:14
No 2006.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:19:17
it was 1988. There was another permanent passed in 06

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:19:21

Yeah. The last one was 06.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:19:23

But the effective rates on those combined, at least for my particular parcel are just over three mils. It's not, it's not a lot

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:19:32

And that's supported 11 Officer, that's amazing.

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:19:35

Back then, I was Making \$8 when I came in.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:19:37

Yeah.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:19:41

And those are two permanent Levies.

Chief Smith, Police 00:19:43

Yes.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:19:43

And I will carry on now, until those levees probably someday I guess they're run out some day

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:19:51

No. They don't

Chief Smith, Police 00:19:53

continue to bring in something.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:19:55

So, you always have a police department.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:19:58

Right.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:20:00

Now,

Chief Smith, Police 00:20:02

of stuff.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:20:03

of sorts yeah

Chief Smith, Police 00:20:05

So, so I don't know what What decisions do they have to make today, Jeff?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:20:10

Today? None. okay. First part of next year? If the levy goes on, on May, on the May ballot, paperwork and the resolution to get it on there has to be done at least 90 days prior till

Chief Smith, Police 00:20:24

Yes

Jeff Wilcheck 00:20:26

So, January, February timeframe is when decisions are going to be made as to what size levy, in anticipation of the levy not passing in may reduction and staff to continue. And there, however, that's going to work and going if may fails, you've got November. And by that time, not sure what, where the department's going to be

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:20:56

where do you go if you run out of a levy, I mean, we got to two more to do next year. What happens after that if both those fail

Chief Smith, Police 00:21:07

then we go down to one shift,

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:21:10

4 people

Chief Smith, Police 00:21:11

4 people,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:21:12

okay, I understand that. But are you in the future allowed by state law to wait a while and refile.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:21:22

No, you can refile every year if you want refile every twice a year.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:21:27

refile for what?

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:21:28

never was sure about that

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:21:29

to run, uh, to put a levy on,

Jeff Wilcheck 00:21:31

you've got two chances for it to be a renewal levy next year next year, if nothing passes next year, you are after a new Levy. Because the levy is expired, you can't run it.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:21:42

Right,

Chief Smith, Police 00:21:42

right. The problem is

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:21:46

just a minute, but I want to understand it, say that again, what you just said

Jeff Wilcheck 00:21:50

your levy expires at the end of next year, once it expired, you no longer have the chance to renew it. Okay. So, at that point,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:21:57

we cannot renew that levy

Jeff Wilcheck 00:21:59

Right, at that point your putting on a new one.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:22:03

Now you can apply for permanent the following years is that what you're saying

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:22:08

No, anytime you can redo anytime that the time levy once it succeeded, and it didn't pass after a certain period, you can't call it a renew anymore, you'd have to put a new one on of the same Mill.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:22:09

Okay, that's what I wanted clarified,

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:22:18

you can keep doing that.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:22:23

Okay. So, you can repetitively do that,

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:22:27

right. But it'd be a new wouldn't be a renewal after that

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:22:30

I've never dug into it. So, I don't really know. So, it's just not like, if you do, try again, try again next year that you're done forever. I mean, you're not done, you're not really done at all, you've got two permanent levies these but

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:22:47

you can always put something on here,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:22:48

you can always put something out there. The problem is, is we keep trying to do a timed Levy. And if it doesn't pass Well, at this point in time, I don't think anything will fail, these guys had their meat cleavers out, man, they didn't want it.

Chief Smith, Police 00:23:05

But the problem is that the residents aren't picking up on Ralph and part of the negative, you know, people going around reading things that are is when we lay everybody off and they leave, it costs us more money to rebuild. And so, it's costing the taxpayer more money

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:23:23

You have to retrain and you know, go this and you got swing and doors and people don't realize they will never get stability.

Chief Smith, Police 00:23:31

No

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:23:32

in a police department, they'll never see the same cops again,

Chief Smith, Police 00:23:36

they will not

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:23:36

They come and go and they don't know ya and on and on.

Chief Smith, Police 00:23:40

So, the problem is, is theoretically what could happen is if by the time we go down to one shift, and the levy does pass, we will most likely be on one shift, you know, for two to three years trying to retrain people. Before we go back to three shifts

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:23:55

We had a meeting with the sheriff's department. So, well, they've given us

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:24:00

the same statement

Jeff Wilcheck 00:24:01
competing with everybody.

Chief Smith, Police 00:24:02
Then you're competing with everybody. With the same statement I've made since we had this play as far as any way we can have a fairly decent Police Department. I think we're crazy not to have it. If we have to give up something else, to have our police department everything. And the times are critical right now. there is big danger out there. It's not totally safe to go downtown and come home or grocery store No not at all,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:24:34
that's a whole reason to come down to a meeting here

Chief Smith, Police 00:24:36
No, it's dangerous here too

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:24:38
not gonna be long and before the realized open shop here, Ralph. If I was a criminal, you know, they don't have police here.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:24:46
I'm not all that happy about running around, but When I think

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:24:51
last week just say know, we're gonna we will lose our officers because the sheriff's department pretty much made a commitment that will transfer as soon as we lay off they want them. And they're gonna bring them on over at a step higher, probably gonna be making more than what we are right now. I don't think the guys are actually wanting to be in the jail. But it will be there, they want our guys. They already told us that.

Chief Smith, Police 00:25:19
so, does the Board want to make any decisions today about layoffs based on the fiscal departments.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:25:24
I don't even know if were in position to make.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:25:27
Jeff, you said it this time. We don't need to make that decision today. Not today.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:25:32
Not today

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:25:32

Till what, December? January,

Chief Smith, Police 00:25:35

January?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:25:36

Yes.

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:25:37

Wait till January. Yeah,

Jeff Wilcheck 00:25:40

January, January, February timeframe is the time for discussion and determining what levy you're going to place on the ballot. Okay. Well, so, yeah. Will you run a department with three shifts? Two shifts? What?

Chief Smith, Police 00:26:03

So that'll be the question

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:26:04

well, here's, here's what my thoughts are on it. Since this, since we don't have enough to feel all shift, truly. Now are we going to be prohibited as we speak of utilizing a police dept, or a part time officer that kind of thing. Are, as we are is a way we have been. Yeah, if right now No. Okay, if we lay off, we have to lay off the part timers first, I understand that. Okay. If we lay off nobody will they go the way we stand? no, we go the way we stand. We brown out when we don't have coverage. And we do priority one and two runs only just what we talked about in the prior meeting now

Chief Smith, Police 00:26:57

Correct

Jeff Wilcheck 00:27:01

does the staffing level that we've budgeted give you two shifts or three?

Chief Smith, Police 00:27:07

Three, iffy shifts, meaning it depends on people coming to work,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:27:15

okay. My point, I guess is, can, how many folks who do you have on a third shift at all

Chief Smith, Police 00:27:24

three

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:27:24

cops, we would have three,

Chief Smith, Police 00:27:26

not at one time, but three totals assigned

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:27:29

So, you basically have one on duty

Chief Smith, Police 00:27:32

one and one to two

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:27:37

Okay. How much activity do those folks go through?

Chief Smith, Police 00:27:45

I mean, most of your runs that you take at night are more of a two Officer run, because they deal with, you know, people breaking into something, intoxicated people more violent crimes, that kind of stuff.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:27:58

Okay, I guess my point. I guess what I'm trying to get to, I don't know, for a fact, But I do know this, that there's an awful lot of crime. being over here and part of the night up to 12, one o'clock in the morning. And I think everybody will agree to that.

Chief Smith, Police 00:28:09

Sure.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:28:19

So, could that be a situation we could be beef up that stuff on second shift. And now the sheriff they have 24/7 out there in prairie, don't they? How many runs Would you think could they pick up a run here and a run there for us?

Chief Smith, Police 00:28:43

they will pick up the runs, that they are statutorily required to take is what they said

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:28:50

and that would be their statutorily contracted to prairie? Well, no, they're they're required to get a highest priority runs. Okay. Not in any certain time frame So if ya go a Really bad injury or shooting

Chief Smith, Police 00:29:06

they will come, Yes.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:29:08

what type of calls would not be responded to.

Chief Smith, Police 00:29:13

um,

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:29:13

dog barking

Chief Smith, Police 00:29:15

Well. Yeah. Obviously, things like barking dogs, loud noise suspicious person, you know, somebody broke into your garage, and you see him running down the street, it's not important, they're not gonna send a car.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:29:30

They might after you shoot them

Chief Smith, Police 00:29:32

Yeah, I mean, if they

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:29:33

when we had our full crew and everything we actually had kind of moved in to have been able to have enough people to really investigate the so-called misdemeanor.

Chief Smith, Police 00:29:45

We did. Yeah, we were Yeah,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:29:47

we had good success on that, and people that were really getting good service.

Chief Smith, Police 00:29:53

So, we're gonna try to stretch it as thin as we can, until we lay him off. As soon as they get the notices most of them are more likely going to leave. And we're probably going to reduce coverage even more prior to the levy even being put on. In May, I would imagine.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:30:10

Well, if we're going to start changing around, you know, there won't be looking for a change, obviously.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:30:16

Right. So that's that decisions can be made for us I would assume I'm thinking that, you know, I've lived through this once before, and it's nothing new. I believe that the only thing that we can do is a letter from the chief. Let people know what our options are. Let people know what, ask basically a survey, what is it that you want? Why? Why do you not want a levy to how much coverage Do you want? How much are you willing to spend, and what would you want? Because when we put a levy back on, I'm not for putting a time levy on and doing the same thing again, in five years, four years. We're operating a business and if you operate a business, you got to know that you have permanent funds to operate that. If we need a time Levy, then that's either for buying cars, equipment and once that is paid off, it goes away.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:31:31

Well, I understand.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:31:32

So, my thought is basically we're going to have to go with the Chiefs recommendation, what we've done before brown out the days that we can't do service and try to serve the people of the township the best we can with what we've got. I don't think throwing in the towel yet is People will jump ship while they can.

Chief Smith, Police 00:31:46

Yeah.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:31:46

What are you thinking ,john? Well, we're obligated, well were obligated with the two levees already in place. but well we actually still have three in place.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:31:59

Well, yeah, the time levy is not out yet.

Chief Smith, Police 00:32:01

No, we do, we're gonna do the most we can with what we have Ralph

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:32:06

So

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:32:08

We'll we have some options here, hopefully, we'll be able to make the school zone safer and start that process back up again,

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:32:18

I just want to point out that in the newsletter, there was a survey put together in there for those residents that do get it

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:32:25

But what I would like to see is us to be able to send out a letter straight from the chief with no other stuff other than the police stuff so that we are focused strictly on what our needs are, where we're at. And this is what's going on.

Chief Smith, Police 00:32:41

Do we have a mailing list of all the township?

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:32:43

Well, we sure we do with the company that sends us a letter. Granted the township, the general fund, I probably have to help out cover the cost of the mailing. But I think it's essential that we reach out to the public to say, Okay, there's 130 of you, 130 people made the difference to passing and not going, what is it that you want to see, and what service do you want? I mean, because obviously, they, they are the ultimate of what's going to happen.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:33:14

Well, that's exactly right. Now, having said that. So, you're Thinking, Jeff, around the first part of the year, we'll have let somebody go, right.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:33:31

No, no, the notice needs to be set because you've got a six-month timeframe.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:33:35

Okay, I forgot about that now,

Jeff Wilcheck 00:33:38

notice in January, it's July that they would be laid off. Now, none of us I know want to be laying someone off because that's that's their livelihood.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:33:50

I forgotten about that six months' notice there yeah.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:33:53

The chance for the Sheriff's Department to pick them up. That's correct. Yeah. In a way I'm glad to hear that because I hate to see somebody

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:34:03

you're flat out saying that uh uh, honestly, I don't see us resolving it instantly

Chief Smith, Police 00:34:10

No.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:34:13

What I think we need to do is staff the best we can think about looking at the guys and see if maybe we can be beef that second shift up some or maybe even do a one or two staggered shift or made me do a staggering shift.

Chief Smith, Police 00:34:30

So, I presented that to the board

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:34:32

what about this Mr. Horn? When we went through this before, I know chief and I, we convinced the union to let us have part timers when they would never do it.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:34:42

I do remember that.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:34:43

And they it really helped out is there a way that they would let us until we would lay someone off allow us to have some part timers still

Chief Smith, Police 00:34:54

additional.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:34:56

Right. I mean, obviously how are we going to pay for it?

Chief Smith, Police 00:34:59

I'm being told that we can't

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:35:01

I understand but I mean I'm just

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:02

I can understand them drawing the line or I think their being generous with you anyway honestly

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:09

well I mean, we could we could hire them we just don't have money

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:12

Exactly.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:35:14

so that's a moot point

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:18

Just if we could keep some of the part timers we got, and you have to work with the FOP on that of course. See, we're ending our shifts at 11pm

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:33

No

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:34

our second shift

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:34

we're, yes

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:36

currently, but you're carried over through the night

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:39

Yes.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:41

So, if we eliminate that all-nighter and see if we can stagger a guy or 2 and another person not I think we got a levy to...

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:52

I presented that to the board Ralph

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:54

did ya?

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:54

and the board opted

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:35:57

opted not to

Chief Smith, Police 00:35:58

to go with doing the best we can on each shift and

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:36:02

just getting the third and fourth like the way we can and while we could do that,

Chief Smith, Police 00:36:06

I mean I don't know

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:36:09

I'm just saying you know, the big part of where the problem is coming in at late at night or bar closing times. You know that a lot. I'm getting close to 230 in the morning and we had one shot out here at shakers the other night.

Chief Smith, Police 00:36:28

I know

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:36:29

so, we're getting people shot all over the place now people aren't realizing, how many got shot? Dave, Two?

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:36:37

Two shootings last week

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:36:39

and then we had five the week before, right? had five Deaths, the week before

Chief Smith, Police 00:36:45

welcome to the neighborhood

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer 00:36:46

welcome to the township

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:36:47

Do people know that people are absolutely getting killed out here??

Chief Smith, Police 00:36:52

You know, Ralph I, I do the best I can to educate them. I don't know what else we can do. Yet a lot of these are without putting up billboards and stats

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:37:03

I wanted to say a little bit earlier. I got a couple of , what do ya call them. what you get on the cell phone Robyn, Text's. yay yay yay, no more taxes. We're done.

Chief Smith, Police 00:37:19

Yeah. till somebody is always breaking into your house, then. It's all over but the crying

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:37:24

and you know, I, you know, I don't want to lose our police. And I think I don't know. I'm just like, if if somebody wanted to harass somebody I mean, I'm concerned about our neighbors, and our residents

Chief Smith, Police 00:37:40

and now's their opportunity if they want to break in or harass or

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:37:42

If I could spend on extra ten bucks a month or something like that. But for God's sake I'd Sure sleep a lot easier next time

Chief Smith, Police 00:37:52

good thing we cleaned up that Eastfield situation here. We wouldn't even be addressing that

Board 00:38:12

(board speaking)

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:38:14

last time we were in this, I'll give up my Pepsi or something

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:38:17

that's the reason I go out walked in the street with you that rainy Sunday morning, Sunday morning and Monday morning. You know, I told people to vote and a few people just set their heart that they wouldn't you know, I guess \$8 A month is more important to us than our grandchildren. They got grandchildren too, by the way. They go to school. And they're responsible for right.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:38:47

But Mr. Horn there was um, from what I heard, there was some mis-information going around that your taxes would double.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:38:56

Yeah. So, your taxes would double somebody even put a word out that you're told these ladies, I think you guys run into them yourself. said your taxes was going to be raised by \$890 or something like that Some atrocious figure .

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:39:15

Yeah, we were walking around talking, we had people

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:39:19

This little lady, well I love our cops, but I can't pay no \$900. So, this has to be people going around and telling things like that, you know,

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:39:32

spreading rumors that aren't true.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:39:38

well, of course.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:39:40

You know, I think we know where we're at here, John how about just leave the thing lie here for a minute then and let's run over this another time.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:39:50

Well, yeah, just I think today's just basically fact finding and getting us the actual numbers. There's nothing that we can really make a move on today, sir.

Jeff Wilcheck 00:40:00

So, we need to do a proposed budget for next year. We start the year off with 10 officers including lieutenant and the chief and for part timers. Depending upon how things go throughout the year, that staff level may dwindle. Especially if the levy fails in May. Okay. But there are some actions that need to be taken in January. And we go from there. Okay, but at least right now, you got barely three shifts. But you've got issues.

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:40:38

So, there are some positives that we possibly can come into play one the cameras two if we were able to use any of the other monies that come in up from 500,000 but we won't know that until later.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:40:54

maybe we'll all return with time,

Jeff Wilcheck 00:40:56

schools up

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:40:57

so maybe a we'll all return in time and folks try to get a letter around to the residence and explained you know the situation here because

Jeff Wilcheck 00:41:08

it's gonna take, it's gonna take some muck

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:41:12

Mike, did you see some of that going on misinformation, things like that? I know I'm pretty sure you don't want to get rid of the cops or at least I don't think so. And I know I don't

Mike Blevins 00:41:23

I didn't know if I was allowed to talk or not so I was gonna wait until the end but since you ask any questions have seen that. But I, I mainly came to get information today because I have people that I talked to and and again, I don't want to spread misinformation like that. Correct. So, I took the time out of my day to come down when I saw this was about the police, I didn't come for the other ones, I only came for this.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:41:50

Well, even the people that did not vote for the levy that I mean, I, you know, I'm not able to get out in the wall clock I used to and everything but probably made probably over a total of 100 homes. And I didn't run into a while I didn't see all those homes that I went to, but people I did see, they did not want to lose a police department. But they some of them had said that, oh my god, I can't pay all this money, you know that? There's been some people saying, say no, it's \$100,000. You know, it's a raise of \$8 plus \$9 on \$100,000. Home, we don't have \$100,000 home? Well, your payment will be less than that, then it's graded on the value of your home, and oh, it is? I'll vote for it. But nobody had really taken time to tell them that you know, and I would understand I've lived poor too and yet if you can't afford something, you can't afford something

John Fleshman, Trustee 00:43:03

Well, it's \$96 a year.

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:43:05

Exactly. Exactly.

Lt. Ratliff, Police 00:43:07

I think Mike have ever changed his stance. He's always been a great supporter for the police department. And let's change now that you've always been supportive.

Mike Blevins 00:43:20

I have thoughts on the levy passing and why it didn't pass and stuff, But I didn't think that's what this meeting was about, so I wasn't gonna go there,

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:43:34

I think we have the makings of a real good department and I hate to see it broken up and we go back, and really do it that way . You know

Chief Smith, Police 00:43:44

That's the entire levy

Ralph Horn, Trustee 00:43:45

that's where I'm at. So, I think it's worth looking into more

Nicholas Dunn, Fiscal Officer 00:43:53

there're no questions regarding the budget at this time. So, are we taking another break?

Jeff Wilcheck 00:43:59

yes