

Hamilton Township Retreat Trustee Meeting

March 1, 2023

Trustee Board Chairman, Mark Sousa, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Mr. Rozzi, Mr. Sousa and Mr. Cordrey were present.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Darryl Cordrey	Yes

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all.

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments, in which there were none.

Work Session

Township Administrator, Mr. Pegram, introduced the agenda for the meeting.

Budget Overview

Mr. Pegram gave an update on all Township Funds.

Mr. Pegram asked the Board if we would like to request revenue early from the County Auditor to take advantage of interest and investment income. He stated this would help mainly in the months of January, February and March.

Mr. Cordrey asked if there are any fees associated with doing this.

Ms. Horman responded by saying the fees are only based on the dollar amount received.

It was decided to talk to the county auditor about receiving funds early.

Copies of the budget can be obtained during normal office hours.

Fire Department

Chief Jewett spoke about the major accomplishments they completed in 2022. Chief Jewett covered all the statistics for 2022. Lastly, Chief Jewett explained the needs for the Fire Department in the upcoming years. With the main need being staffing as well as equipment needs.

Administrator Pegram recommended the BOT use ARPA funds for the purchase of the new ladder truck in order to save money in the fire fund and be able to address other staffing and equipment needs, if the ladder truck is purchased fully from the fire fund projections show the levy funds may not last beyond 2027, with 2029 being the goal. THE Board agreed to look at the possibility of using \$1,000,000 in ARPA funds for the ladder truck purchase.

Police Department

Chief Hughes went over the statistics for 2022. He mentioned the major accomplishments made in 2022. He explained the needs for the Police Department in the future these included additional officers' previously had a K9 Unit but it was discontinued. Chief Hughes has requested we

reinstate the K9 unit using an existing officer as the K9 Officer. Donations have already been secured for the dog as well as the necessary equipment. HTPD would hire two new officer this summer, one to replace the existing vacancy and the other to fill the patrol spot left vacant by creating a K9 unit. By the end of the 2023 HTPD would be fully staffed with the addition of one new position (K9). The Board advised Chief Hughes to continue researching the implementation and bring the appropriate resolutions forward to the board to implement the K9 later this year.

Public Works Department

Mr. Don Pelfrey recapped the accomplishments of the public works department in 2022. He stated that he has filled the role of Foreman with long time employee Justin Thompson as well as filling one vacancy as highway service worker II. Mr. Pelfrey then explained the needs for the public works department in the future which include a new larger facility to hold all equipment.

The township promised voters to pave at least 6 miles of roads per year. Since the new road levy passed on average 7-9 miles of township roads have been paved annually. The cost for asphalt in 2023 is up significantly but the plan is to do approximately 7.2 miles of road re-surfacing in 2023 which will use 100% of the road levy funding for this year.

Human Resources

Mr. Pegram reviewed some of the current projects Ms. Allgeyer is working on. Such as working to automate the Township payroll system and filling vacancies in the departments.

The Zoning Permit Trends were discussed.

Mr. Pegram mentioned that Hamilton Township was #1 in new homes in 2022.

Zoning Code Updates were then brought up.

Discussion ensued about beginning to re-write certain sections of the code to bring it more up to date.

Parks and Recreation

Ms. Nicole Earley went over the parks improvements in 2022. She mentioned the improvements needed for 2023. A discussion about revamping the restrooms at Testerman Park as well as Fosters ensued. Ms. Earley mentioned the grant that was received to build a shelter at Marr Park. She gave two options to the Board, ultimately the 20x28 shelter was selected. The ongoing vandalism at the parks was discussed. A conversation about the need for flock cameras at all entrances and exits ensued. The recommendation to install these cameras was given. A conversation about the funding of the parks, concession stand as well as baseball field contracts began. No final decision was reached, conversations with individual baseball leagues will begin. In regards to concession stand volunteers as well as some seasonal/part-time workers will be needed soon.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Cordrey thanked the staff. He was glad that we were able to have this meeting and have such well informed discussions. He thanked the staff again for always doing an amazing job.

Mr. Sousa mentioned he was glad we could talk and have healthy discussions on these matters. He thanked the staff and mentioned that he appreciates everyone and values the job that is done.

Mr. Rozzi state he does think we have challenges ahead with budgeting but thinks we have the right staff to get the job done.

Administrative Report

Mr. Pegram mentioned how he would like to see the ARPA funds spent. This consists of 2.5 million dollars. 1 million to Mounts Park for EPA issues, 1 million to the fire department for the purchase of a quint. \$250,000 for the police and public works each to purchase necessary new vehicles.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to adjourn at 2:14pm.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Darryl Cordrey	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes