

The stated 2016 Final Budget meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with President Luker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners ZAPPONE, SPIEGELMAN, SANCHEZ, MYERS, MARKMAN, KALINOSKI, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, DiPLACIDO, FARREN, HECKER, JONES, KLINE, LUKER
Excused: GILLESPIE

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Chief of Police KELLY
Deputy Police Chief WEBB
Assistant Finance Director HERMANN
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO
Superintendent of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Community Development Director STROTHER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION:

Commissioner Lawrence F. Jones, Junior:

President Luker announced to Commissioner Jones that this will be our last formal meeting together, and on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Township staff, he presented Commissioner Larry Jones with a small gift as a token of their appreciation for Larry's years of service as Commissioner of Abington Township on this 23rd day of December, 2015.

Commissioner Myers said to Commissioner Jones: "You are a man among men," and she knows that Larry's public service will go on and on because he is an incredible public servant that will continue to serve the residents of Abington and possibly an even bigger audience. "We love you, Larry."

President Luker called on Chief Kelly to provide a report on an incident that occurred today in Abington Township, specifically in Ward 5.

Chief Kelly advised that at 1:50 p.m. a 73-year old gentleman, who lived on Prospect Avenue in Willow Grove, was shot and killed on his front porch of his home. A man knocked on the door and the victim's wife answered it and she told her husband that it was a friend at the door. The shooter and the victim who was shot were lifelong friends and served in the military together and had been friends and colleagues working on projects in Abington Township for many years.

The victim went out to the porch to speak with the man and when the victim's wife went out to check on her husband she found that he had been shot in face and was lying on the porch bleeding from the head. The victim's wife also saw the shooter, a 72-year old man from Warrington walking away from the porch to his car and drove off.

The victim's wife gave police officers the name of the shooter and description of the vehicle. Within minutes, an Abington Police Officer saw the vehicle operating on Washington Avenue near Prospect Avenue. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but the shooter refused to stop and comply with the officer's directions. Other police units began to arrive and blocked the shooter's vehicle from escaping and there was a standoff that lasted approximately five minutes until the suspect finally pulled out a gun and shot himself while he was seated in the van and then shot himself a second time inside the vehicle.

Immediately, the officers removed the shooter from the vehicle and began applying lifesaving measures until the Second Alarmers arrived and the suspect was transported to Abington Memorial Hospital for treatment of self-inflicted gunshot wounds. The shooter is currently alive, but in critical condition.

He wanted to share the facts of this major incident with the Board, so they are informed, but also because one of the news stations irresponsibly reported that police shot the suspect. This incident was investigated thoroughly and he knows with 100% certainty that the news report was erroneous and no police officer fired their weapon, although, it was miraculous that they didn't under those circumstances.

Annual Budget for Year 2016:

President Luker said each Commissioner has been furnished with the proposed Budget for the year 2016, and he called on Township Manager for the budget statement.

Township Manager said when the budget was first proposed the Township was faced with a significant funding imbalance of over \$1.1 million dollars that would require a \$49 tax increase for the average household assessed at \$150,000.

The Board felt that level of a tax increase was too severe and directed it to be reduced by \$330,000 for proposed expenditures. It was initially thought that we could eliminate that amount of expenditures through the attrition process through certain personnel that will be retiring from employment. That course of action would severely impact two departments; the police department and library.

After taking public comment, the Board directed staff to revisit the budget to see if we could more equitably distribute those cuts across the board and the Department Heads have done so.

The 2016 budget before the Board this evening is in the amount of \$37,472,623 representing an increase in spending of \$825,844,000 over the current year or 2.6%. The budget calls for a \$35 tax increase for the average household assessed at \$150,000 or a total millage for 2016 of 0.2319 mill increase over 2015 rates.

Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 2105 – Establishing 2016 Tax Millage and Budget Appropriation for various Township funds as attached to agenda and circulated to the public

President Luker opened Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2105 at 7:17 p.m. He asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Myers commented that at the proper time she would like to offer an alternative motion similar to the one she offered at the preliminary budget meeting.

Commissioner Zappone said during the budget process, the budget was brought down to \$700,000 and will that amount be reduced by \$332,000, which the Township just received?

Manager LeFevre replied unexpectedly, the Township received \$332,000 in permit fees for two floors that were renovated in the Sears building of the Willow Grove Mall. Those funds have not been directed towards the 2016 budget, but will be included as part of 2015 budget and reflected in the year-end balance.

Vice President Kline clarified that was unanticipated permit fees received this year and there is no expectation of bringing that amount of permit fees in next year. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied that is correct.

President Luker asked for any other comments from staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

President Luker closed Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt Ordinance No. 2105 establishing tax and levy for appropriation for various funds for the fiscal year 2016:

Tax Levy –

Tax rate for General purposes	2.273 mills
Tax rate for Fire purposes	.72 mills
Tax rate for Debt Service purposes	.52 mills
Tax rate for Parks and Recreation	.25 mills
Tax rate for Library purposes	.43 mills
Tax rate for Ambulance Service purposes	<u>.01 mills</u>
Total Millage	4.203 mills

Summary of Appropriations and Receipts for following funds:

General	\$37,472,623
Sewer Fund	9,130,956
Refuse Fund	5,807,416
Highway Aid Fund	1,431,178
Workers' Compensation Fund	965,030
Retiree Health Cost Fund	1,348,700
Tuition Reimbursement Fund	15,000

President Luker called on Commissioner Myers.

Commissioner Myers said the budget as proposed tonight not only increases property taxes, but reduces services. The bulk of these reduced services will be the elimination of two street-patrol police officers. This is inconceivable to her, and although she knows it is going to happen, she is making the following motion because for the first time in her years as a resident, taxes will be increased and services will be reduced. She sees this as the Township going backwards and someday soon the residents will see that this is not the community that they moved into.

Chief Kelly told us about a police incident that occurred this afternoon and she asked for some numbers. During that one half hour time period while that incident occurred; another incident occurred at 1:32 p.m. at Washington Lane where there was a pole down that took the time of four police officers and a Sergeant. So during the time of these incidents, it took a minimum of seven police officers and one Lieutenant. At 2:06 p.m. there was an accident at Easton Road, and at 2:08 p.m., there was an accident at Washington Lane and Susquehanna Road. So in a one half hour time period, our entire police department was called out; calls were made to surrounding police departments and officers were brought in who were off today.

For that reason, she is making the motion because we cannot in this time in our country and this time in our Township reduce police services.

This motion will be made with full knowledge of our Fund Balance policy, which needs to be revisited because it is not serving all of the residents of this Township. We keep talking about saving for the future, but we are not talking about the here and now, and she is concerned about the here and now.

She made a MOTION to increase general tax rate by \$35 to the average household assessed at \$150,000 and fill the balance of \$330,000 by taking those funds from Fund Balance and/or the surplus for 2015, which has just been increased by \$332,000 in permit fees, and she asked everyone “to write down this date so you will remember the night that Abington Township went backwards instead of forward,” seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Commissioner Farren clarified with Commissioner Myers that in regards to funds taken from fund balance, would there be any directive to Department Heads to find cuts in their budget to pay back those funds to Fund Balance. Is that correct?

Commissioner Myers replied yes, this would allow Department Heads a lot more time to make these decisions for next year. She understands that we cannot keep taking funds from Fund Balance, but for 2015 going into 2016 it is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Farren asked for the timeline for that to happen.

Commissioner Myers replied we can leave that up to administration.

Vice President Kline clarified the two police officer positions being cut are currently unfilled. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied that is correct.

Vice President Kline continued that the memo indicated that the police department is still currently working on other options that would allow for the hiring of those officers sometime in May or June. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied that is correct. There are two current vacancies in the rank of patrol officer of the police department, and initially, it was projected those positions would not be filled until early spring. Chief Kelly asked for the opportunity to revisit his budget in early 2016 to see if there are other efficiencies that might be obtained to offset the reduction of those two positions.

President Luker called for the vote on the first motion made by Vice President Kline on Ordinance No. 2105.

MOTION was ADOPTED 9-5.

President Luker called for a vote on the second motion made by Commissioner Myers on Ordinance No. 2105.

MOTION FAILED 5-9.

Commissioner Zappone said he was opposed to any tax increase. No tax increase and no service cuts.

ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

FOR THE YEAR 2016

TAX LEVY AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 2105

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the tax rate for the year 2016 and appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the municipal government, hereinafter set forth, during the current year.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington, County of Montgomery, Pennsylvania.

SECTION 1. That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all property and occupations within the said municipality subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2016 as follows:

Tax rate for General Purposes, the sum of two and two hundred seventy-three thousandths (2.273) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Fire Purposes, the sum of seventy-two hundredths (.72) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Debt Service Purposes, the sum of fifty-two hundredths (.52) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Parks and Recreation Purposes, the sum of twenty-five hundredths (.25) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Library Purposes, the sum of forty-three hundredths (.43) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Ambulance Service Purposes, the sum of one hundredths (.01) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

The same being summarized in tabular form as follows:

SECTION 1. (Continued)	Mills on Each Dollar of Assessed Valuation
Tax rate for General Township Purposes	2.273
Tax rate for Fire Purposes	.72
Tax rate for Debt Service Purposes	.52
Tax rate for Parks and Recreation Purposes	.25
Tax rate for Library Purposes	.43
Tax rate for Ambulance Service Purposes	<u>.01</u>
TOTAL	4.203

SECTION 2. That for the expenses for the fiscal year 2016 the following amounts are hereby appropriated from the revenues available for the current year for the specific purposes set forth below, which amounts are more fully itemized in the Budget Form.

GENERAL OPERATION FUNDS
Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts and Cash	37,472,623
Summary of Appropriations	
Administration	3,549,756
Debt Service	1,924,875
Police Protection	17,615,857
Library	2,480,783
Code Enforcement	1,017,138
Engineering Division	493,421
Public Works	3,885,468
Parks and Recreation	4,111,559
Fire Service	2,356,416
Ambulance Services	<u>37,350</u>
TOTAL Appropriations from General Operating Funds	37,472,623

SECTION 2. (Continued)

SEWER FUND

Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts of Cash 9,130,956

Summary of Appropriations

Operation and Maintenance 9,130,956

REFUSE FUND

Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts of Cash 5,807,416

Summary of Appropriations

Operation and Maintenance 5,807,416

HIGHWAY AID FUND

Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts and Cash 1,431,178

Summary of Appropriations

Operation and Maintenance 1,431,178

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND

Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts and Cash 681,000

Summary of Appropriations

Operation and Maintenance 965,030

RETIREE HEALTH COST FUND

Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts and Cash 1,548,700

Summary of Appropriations

Operation and Maintenance 1,348,700

SECTION 2. (Continued)

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FUND
Summary of Estimated Receipts

Total Estimated Receipts and Cash 5,000

Summary of Appropriations

Operation and Maintenance 15,000

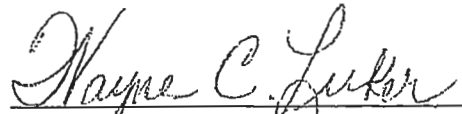
SECTION 3. An estimate of the specific items making up the amounts appropriated to the respective departments is on file in the Administrative Office of the Township of Abington, Abington, Pennsylvania.

SECTION 4. That any ordinance, or part of ordinance, conflicting with this ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this ordinance.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be effective as of January 1, 2016.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of December, A.D., 2015.

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON


Wayne C. Luker, President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Michael LeFevre, Secretary

Capital Program

President Luker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve 2016 Capital Improvement Program (includes Street Overlay Program) as listed in attached documents from the following funding sources:

General Fund transfer:

Use of Capital Fund Balance	\$684,000	
Transfer from Fire	85,000	
2015 In-Lieu-Of	495,000	
Reallocated Funds	<u>69,000</u>	1,333,000
Sewer Operation Retained Earnings		872,000
Sewer Capital Retained Earnings		1,150,000
Refuse Retained Earnings		<u>534,000</u>
		3,889,000

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

2016 Capital Program

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Administration	Township Buildings	50,000	
	Replace Boiler - Administration Side of Township Building	16,000	66,000
Information Technology	VMWare Lifecycle Assessment	7,500	
	Improved Backup Suite	25,000	
	Finance Update	25,000	57,500
Economic Dev.	Business Maintenance Program	75,000	
	Keswick District	5,000	
	Township Line	5,000	
	Noble Station	5,000	
	Old York Road	5,000	
	Decorative Street Poles	15,000	110,000
Police	Crime Scene Digital Imaging System Replacement	30,000.00	
	Police Vehicle Digital Systems	15,000.00	
	Tactical Equipment / Patrol Rapid Response	21,500.00	
	Taser Program Upgrade	11,000.00	
	Body Cameras	10,000.00	
	K-9 Purchase	5,000.00	92,500
Engineering	MS4 - State storm water requirements	50,000.00	
	Stream Maintenance	25,000.00	
	Sump Pump Connections	25,000.00	
	Bridge Repair	50,000.00	150,000
Public Works	Bike Lane	50,000.00	
	Overlay	350,000.00	
	Rehab Scarab Compost Machine	35,000.00	
	Rehab Paving Equipment including Paver, Milling Machine & Rollers	25,000.00	
	Change over VM 6,000 gallon unleaded tank to diesel and replace 3 pumps	20,000.00	
	Replace Assistant Fire Marchall Vehicle	32,000.00	
	Replace LED Traffic Signal as part of a 5 year replacement program	10,000.00	
	Pickup Truck with Plow for Parks which replaces Truck #412	35,000.00	
	Greens Mower for Parks wich replaces #431	12,000	
	Replace Guard Cart for Alverthorpe-replaces #447	10,000	579,000
Fire	Fire Training Facility Burn Building Repairs	25,000.00	
	Radio Replacement Project	60,000.00	85,000
Library	Library basement ground water mitigation	60,000.00	60,000

2016 Capital Program (continued)

Parks	Perform feasibility study for pool renovations at Penbryn and Crestmont	35,000.00	
	Replace concrete pavement and apron at Ardsley	10,000.00	
	Replace Cross members on Light Poles in Alverthorpe Manor	20,000.00	
	Facility Wide Tree Maintenance	35,000.00	
	Purchase chemical controllers for both pools	13,000.00	
	Replace roofs on shelter building and bike house	20,000.00	133,000
	General Fund Total		1,333,000

REFUSE FUND

Refuse	Replace two (2) Automated Side Loader Trash Trucks	454,000	
	Replace one (1) Pickup Truck with Plow	35,000	
	Build Building to house Refuse Department at Highway Yard	45,000	534,000

SEWER OPERATIONS

Wastewater	Aeration Tank Air Line Control Valves	7,000.00	
	T22 & T23 Clarifier Gear Drive Refurbish	30,000.00	
	Aquafilter Cloth Media Replacement	20,000.00	
	Motor Control Centers Repairs & Replacement	10,000.00	
	SCADA System Control Circuit RAS Pump & Centrifuge	30,000.00	
	Relocate Biosolids Polymer System to Operating Floor	20,000.00	
	Grit Removal Building Asphalt Roof Replacement	20,000.00	
	Pump Station 2, 3, 4 & Utility Pump Roof Replacement	120,000.00	
	Ultraviolet Disinfection System Replacement	450,000.00	
	Refurbish Existing Westfalia Centrifuge	75,000.00	
	Influent Pumps VFD Harmonic Filters & Transfer Switch	90,000.00	872,000

SEWER CAPITAL

Wastewater	Replace two Utility Trucks No. 521 & No. 531	70,000.00	
	Bryant Lane Pump Station divert to Holy Redeemer Station	80,000.00	
	Old Welsh Road new sanitary sewer system	1,000,000.00	1,150,000

CAPITAL FUNDING SOURCES SUMMARY

	Use of Capital Fund Balance	684,000	
	Transfer from Fire	85,000	
	2015 In-Lieu-Of	495,000	
	Reallocated Funds	69,000	
	Total General Fund		1,333,000
	Sewer Operation Retained Earnings		872,000
	Sewer Capital Retained Earnings		1,150,000
	Refuse Fund Retained Earnings		<u>534,000</u>

Total Capital Improvements 2016 **3,889,000**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Former Commissioner Richard Gaglianese, 1074 Beverly Road, thanked Commissioner Larry Jones for his service to our community. Larry did a standup job and he is a class-act.

Raymond Bell, 2076 Parkview Avenue, commented that he agrees with Commissioner Myers in her concern about not being able to hire people for the police department. Aside from the tragedy that happened in Abington today, this country and this area has changed and not favorably. He suggested that during the 2016 budget process expense controls should be continued, but more aggressively including all contracts across the board. He was opposed to any stoppage of hiring of police officers in the future.

Nathan Vasserman, 130 Church Road, thanked Commissioner Larry Jones for his service as a Commissioner especially for the work and time Larry spent on the Huntingdon Valley Shopping Center. Keep in touch.

REMARKS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Bowman wished everyone a “Merry Christmas.”

Commissioner DiPlacido wished everyone a “Merry Christmas.”

Commissioner Farren wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year.”

Commissioner Hecker wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year.”

Commissioner Jones wished everyone a “Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Kwanzaa.” Also, he is looking forward to some fantastic things from a few community organizations in Abington Township next year.

Vice President Kline wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year.” To Commissioner Jones: “It has been a pleasure working with you.”

Commissioner Zappone wished everyone a “Merry Christmas.”

Commissioner Spiegelman wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year.” To Commissioner Jones: “Best Wishes and Thank You for your service.”

Commissioner Sanchez wished everyone a “Happy Holiday.”

Commissioner Myers wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” and “Happy New Year.” She asked everyone to remember in the new year that what makes Abington special and unique are our services.

Commissioner Markman wished everyone a "Happy Holiday."
To Commissioner Jones: "Thank you for doing a great job."

Commissioner Kalinoski wished everyone a "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year."
To Commissioner Jones: "Thank you for being a friend and getting to you through this process was great."

Also, he knew the two gentlemen involved in the incident today and they were both Veterans and good friends of his and he prays for both of them and their families.

Commissioner Schreiber wished everyone a "Happy Holiday." She reminded everyone that the holidays are not always happy for everyone and often it is a hard time for some, so be nice to everyone.

President Luker commented that he also knew both gentlemen very well who were involved in the incident today and his prayers go out to both of them and their families.

To Commissioner Jones: "You have been a class-act since you set foot on this podium. Always the perfect gentleman and you represented your Ward 3 constituents with pride and dignity. You were never afraid or reluctant to give your opinion, your thoughts or your recommendations when issues not only affronting your ward, but the entire Township. You will be sorely missed as you are a quintessential statesman and often using words causing many of us to reach for a dictionary. Never one to engage in political theater and you viewed your decisions as those that were made in the best business and financial sense and that contributed to the health, safety and welfare of whomever was at the topic of discussion. Thank you to your wife and children for the sacrifices they made over the years. I, and we all, wish you well and take care of yourself and best of luck in your professional career as I am not so sure that we have seen the last of you moving forward. Thank you very much, sir."

ADJOURNMENT: 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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