

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2017 at 6:30 PM**

The **Budget Meeting** was held on **Tuesday, October 24, 2017** in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA.

The meeting was called to order by President Schnaars at 6:30 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
President Schnaars	Jon Rinker	Chief Rachman	Jeffrey Hausman Bruce Kern
Joseph Wechsler			Dwight Miller Carol Gildner
Bryon Reed			Melissa Grube Dan Stevens
Melvin Gildner			
Michael Brogan			
Jason Ruff			
Walter Niedermeyer			
Manager Danko			

PUBLIC COMMENT:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda and Non-Agenda items) You will have three minutes to address Council from the podium. The three minutes applies to your time at the podium. If you exit the podium, you have yielded the floor, and any time you have remaining.

Dan Stevens 560 Main St. – signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Stevens said that 2 weeks ago Council passed a motion to have the lawyer and accountants to come up with a plan in reference to the audit issues. He said last week Mgr. Danko stated she did not agree with the accountants on some of their recommendations. He questioned how council will make their decisions; will they listen to one person or look at all of the ideas. He questioned why a vote wasn't taken for a large amount of money that was transferred from the water fund to the general fund.

Council President Schnaars and other Councilors said that the transfers are Mgr. Danko's responsibility as the Manager and that there was not enough money in the general fund to pay the bill's. This transfer was also recommended by Gurniak & Gurniak. Mgr. Danko reiterated that she has provided all of the information to the Council in their monthly packets. Mgr. Danko also explained that the items from Gurniak that she did not agree with were not possible, example- Liquid Fuels account owes general fund \$97,508.58 for prior years, she stated that you cannot reimburse the general fund back for prior years. Highway aid rules only allow you to reimburse the current year you are in.

Dwight Miller 256 Walnut St.- signed in and was recognized to speak. He questioned if anyone was charged for the fire that was started in the playground trash can. Chief Rachman informed him that they were arrested and that the Police Department is taking care of the issue.

A. Finance

1. Melissa Grube from Campbell Rappold & Yurasits was present for discussion of moving forward to fix previous years of errors notated in audit reports and any audit questions Council may have.
Melissa discussed her meeting with Richard Gurniak and the monies that have been building up over the past 4 years that had not been transferred to the proper accounts. She said the General fund has paid these monies for several years on behalf of

water/sewer/garbage and these accounts owe the general fund. The issue is to try to clean up as much as possible with cash movements as Manager Danko has begun and then re-evaluate after reviewing projects and the amounts of monies available in these accounts. Councilor Gildner asked how Melissa felt that the office is handling these issues and she said she the office and the Manager were doing a wonderful job. She stated this is a timely process and it can't be done quickly.

Councilor Reed asked if the 2013-14-15 & 16 audit reports were junk due to these issues; Melissa explained that they audit whatever information is provided to them from the office personnel. They did not note issues in their year-end audit reports she stated.

2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Gildner**, to **authorize** the Borough Manager to transfer/allocate funds between accounts due to and due from as she deems appropriate, in a manner consistent with the Gurniak & Gurniak & Campbell Rappold & Yurasits findings and the laws, rules and regulations applicable to those accounts with utilizing Attorney Dinkelacker if necessary. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Brogan**, to **authorize** Manager Danko to execute the 10/17/17 letter to recognize Weiss-Schantz Agency as the new broker of record for the borough's insurance. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

B. 2017 Budget vs Actual to date

1. Updated to date-January to December 2017 Budgeted Revenue and Expense Statement provided to Council for review...Mgr. Danko provided this information to Council.

C. Police Department presentation from Chief Rachman

1. A packet of information (incident frequency, central booking information, Slatington Police response time, budget info) from Chief Rachman provided to Council for discussion for 2018 Budget.
Chief Rachman spoke about the information he provided Council for 2018 budgetary purposes. He explained that he is in need of realignment in funds for his budget the actual costs are more than what was budgeted for payrolls. He provided written data showing crime, and drugs are prevalent in the Borough along with high call volumes which shows the need for two officers on a shift if possible.
2. January to December 2017 Budgeted Revenue and Expense Statement for police fund provided to Council for review...

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, A **motion** was made by **Councilor Brogan** to adjourn, President Schnaars declared the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.



Judith A. Danko
Borough Secretary