

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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**SPECIAL MEETING
October 24, 2011**

President Linn Auman called the special meeting of the Millheim Borough Council, to discuss the Budget for 2012, to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Linn Auman, Kay Brown, Marlene Corl, Alan Ilgen, Lauralee Snyder, Tom Strebel, Sharon Heckman and Carl Rote.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to accept the Capital Blue Cross rates of \$454.85/employee for 2012. Motion carried.

The Secretary explained that the Solicitor would like Council to set a Special Meeting in November to adopt a required Earned Income Tax Ordinance because the County Tax Group will be collecting this tax beginning in 2012. This ordinance must be advertised once a week for three weeks, adopted and forwarded to DCED by December 1, 2011. This is not a new tax but it is a new way to collect the Earned Income Tax. Council agreed to have a Special Meeting to adopt this ordinance on Monday, November 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Kay Brown to have Uni-Tec include replacement and loop of the old plastic waterline on Pine Street for the PennVest application at an additional cost of \$1,250. Motion carried.

The Downtown Beautification Fund Budget was discussed by line item with the following discussion:

- President Auman explained that the October Glory Maple trees in the parking lot are dying. He recommended putting five short shrubs in the island at approximately \$80/shrub and splitting this cost 50/50 with the General Fund. Mr. Auman would like to plant the shrubs between the existing trees and try to save the trees as long as possible. In the spring the Rockview plant list will be reviewed.
- The gazebo roof needs treated.

The Sewer Fund Budget was discussed by line item with the following discussion:

- The Secretary explained that there isn't much surplus money in the account because rates haven't been raised since 2008. When the new plant was built the projection was to raise the cost per EDU to \$81.
- Sludge Removal costs are very high because the plant is operating well. The Borough is locked into the sludge going to Bellefonte and their rates are \$70/1,000 gal. Roy Rupert is to check rates with the other haulers.
- There are 14 membranes on line at the plant and their useful life is ten years. It isn't recommended to purchase and store membranes because they dry out.
- The plant is running well and the only thing Mr. Rupert needs is an air conditioner.
- Mr. Robinson is in the permitting stage but he will soon be able to spread sludge on his facility in Jacksonville. Millheim is first in line for this service.
- Our discharge has no chemicals.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to raise the EDU rate from \$61/EDU to \$65/EDU. Motion carried.

The General Fund Budget was discussed by line item with the following discussion:

- The Per Capita Tax was discussed. The Tax Collector is concerned that, since the County will be collecting the Earned Income Tax, she may not have accurate data to collect the Per Capita Tax. The concerns raised, if the Per Capita Tax was eliminated and part of a mill was added to the Real Estate Tax, was that everyone wouldn't be paying the same amount as they do with the \$10 Per Capita Tax. The consensus of the group was to keep the Per Capita Tax for a year, get letters out to the landlords to register their tenants, and make the effort to collect the tax.
- The current lease with the Library was discussed. Since the geothermal project is completed, the library no longer has heating fuel costs and with the increase in the Sewer EDU rate the utility rates should be adjusted in this lease agreement. Currently the rent is \$350 for rent and \$100 for utilities for a total monthly rent of \$450. The consensus of the group was to leave the rent at \$350 but increase the utilities by \$100 charging \$200 for utilities bringing the total monthly rent to \$550. Alan Ilgen has a meeting scheduled this week with Lisa Erickson so he will discuss this change with her.
- The proposed diverter at the flood gates was discussed. The consensus of the group was to budget \$4,000 and if this project can't be completed at this cost the project would be postponed until 2013 and the \$4,000 would be put in a designated account with the rest of the cost being budgeted in 2013.
- President Auman explained that \$1,000 for the Race Wing Wall should have been carried forward. The project should cost approximately \$810 for concrete.
- Donations will remain as they were in 2010 - \$250 - Library; \$250 - Home Nursing; \$250 - Centre Home Care; \$250 - Pool.

The General Fund Budget was completed with no tax increase necessary; the Water Fund Budget was completed with no increase; and the Sewer Fund Budget was completed with a \$4.00/EDU increase necessary.

The consensus of the group was that the Fire Tax Committee will need to meet. Council would like to see a 10-15 year plan because they know this tax is collected for future needs but perhaps the tax millage could be reduced.

President Auman explained he will be stepping down as President at the meeting to reorganize in January. The following positions will need to be filled in January: Ambulance Board - Borough resident, Regional Planning Commission - 1 elected person and 1 resident. The Secretary was instructed to check with the Solicitor to see if a committee people are required to live in the Borough for one year.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer