

Special Session The special meeting of the Harmony Township Committee was called to order by the Mayor. The Mayor made the following announcement, “Adequate notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by providing a notice of the meeting to the Express-Times, posting a copy thereof on the Township bulletin board and filing a copy thereof in the office of the Municipal Clerk.” The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by the Mayor.

Roll Call Tipton, Yamrock, Cornely

Also in attendance were CFO Kathleen Reinalda and Auditor John Mooney (via zoom)

Minutes Motion by Yamrock, seconded by Cornely to approve the minutes dated January 4, 2022 and January 25, 2022. Motion carried by All In Favor.

Motion by Tipton, seconded by Cornely to approve the minutes dated February 28, 2022. Roll Call: Ayes: Cornely, Tipton. Nays: None.

Budget Workshop Mr. Cornely advised the committee that the price of oil and chip has gone up from 150/sq. yd. to 275. Marble Hill road would be \$75,000 to oil and chip. Might want to hold off doing that road. It is showing some wear and tear. Discussion took place on the options and concerns. Mr. Cornely mentioned thinking about increasing the Road Department budget or not. CFO Reinaldo said \$240,000 was put in. Randy has not really identified any items at this time. Todd Richards spoke with Kelley about the Ridge Road project. They were looking at it with Finelli. Todd and Randy would like to put in catch basins and piping in areas where there are water issues and freezing across the roads. This would be in addition to the DOT project. They already have some of the things they would need and would do the work themselves. This should be done before the road gets paved over. Mr. Cornely has told them to do the work as suggested. Mayor Tipton asked do you spend the 35,000 more than normal for oil and chip or do you hold off and hope prices come down. What are the ramifications if there’s more damage that could be done. Mr. Cornely said it’s not the end of the world, if there are pot holes they can patch them. Mayor Tipton said if it is not an emergency at this time maybe it can be put on hold. Mr. Cornely recommended putting Marble Hill Road on the wish list for DOT projects in the future. Kelley suggested holding off until September/October and see what the budget looks like and then do it in October. It was agreed to hold off on the oil and chip and to monitor the situation. Kelley provided the committee with the new LED sign quotes. Mr. Cornely and Kelley met with the sign vendor for a demonstration and agreed that the 4x8 sign is better than the 3x6 sign so the price did go up and it would be paid for with the American Rescue Funds with the electric service it should not be more than \$60,000. This does not affect the budget. The dump body quote for the mason dump truck was distributed. It will be about \$50,000. The chassis quote was already submitted and needs to be decided on today in order for the truck to be ordered at the price quoted. These are both through co-ops. It will be about \$100,000 total for the truck. Mr. Cornely asked if that could be taken out of capital. Mr. Mooney suggested at this point because there is \$49,000 from the American Rescue plan earmarked for the chassis now and between that and the upgrade on the sign we are at 109,000 and have only received 122,000 so far so he doesn’t want to use any more from that

ARP funding until the rest is received. He said there is a significant amount of money in the capital improvement fund so maybe keep the \$49,000 for the chassis portion and the dump body costs get put right into the budget as a capital line and reduce the capital improvement fund by whatever you increase that by so if it's another \$50,000 take the capital improvement fund down to \$425,000 and have a \$50,000 line for the dump body of the truck. The Committee agreed to that scenario. The roadside mowing tractor quote was provided. The tractor is \$52,324 from Eckroth Equipment through the Sourcewell Co-Op. Mr. Cornely stated that could also come from capital and that is why we have a capital fund. Mr. Mooney said there is a lot of money going into capital and that is what it is for, so if you put it into the capital improvement fund or bring it into the budget and reduce the capital improvement fund number it works either way. Mr. Cornely said this should bring the fleet up to where there should not be much more to do for a while. It was the consensus of the committee to buy the tractor. Mr. Mooney stated there is a significant amount of money in the reserve for sale of municipal assets, about 69,000 dollars. He said if the committee wants to keep the capital improvement number where it's at the 425,000 then you could bring in that revenue here to offset the 52,000 for the tractor and there is zero impact to the taxpayer. Mayor Tipton asked what happens to that money if not used. Mr. Mooney said it just sits there until the day you decide to use it. It was the consensus to use it now on the tractor purchase in the amount of 53,000.00. Kelley brought up the website. This was discussed and worked on before. She has received a new quote for a new website from our current IT vendor. The cost would be up to 6,500 and she feels it could be taken out of her OE. It would be more user friendly. CFO Reinalda agreed it could come out of OE. Mayor Tipton agreed. It was the consensus to move forward with the new website work. Mr. Cornely said if the Township receives the second round of American Rescue Funds he would like to consider purchasing a new larger vehicle for our OEM/Fire Chief. He would be replacing the Tahoe and be able to trade that in for a Truck that would be between \$80,000-\$90,000. This is for future consideration. Mr. Mooney said when the \$425,000 goes into Capital Improvement there will be about \$981,000 of capital improvement fund money. CFO Reinalda stated she needs about \$400,000 for the road projects this year from that. That will then leave about \$600,000. Mr. Cornely stated that will complete all the road projects planned and they are fully funded. Mrs. Yamrock asked about the Community Day line. It was noted it is in there under Celebration of Public events in the amount of \$10,300. Mrs. Yamrock asked what was decided on for the salary increase. Mr. Cornely stated it was agreed that 6% because that is what the COLA is and it is included in this budget. Mr. Tipton agreed that was what was put in. Mr. Cornely stated there has been years with 0% increase and it's always been gone by that so he thought it was only fair that as things are inflated and increasing in price it could be done for the employees. Mr. Mooney stated now the tax rate is increasing by half a cent over last year that would be an average increase of \$11 for the year or .89 cents a month on a home assessed at \$205,000. Mayor Tipton asked what it would take to eliminate the half cent. Mr. Mooney said about \$23,000. Mr. Mooney stated he's been warning his municipalities through out the course of this year with inflation being what it is, and the fuel prices what they are, that it is not the year to stand still and be flat, but Harmony has done very well over the years and if there was a town where flat wouldn't be so bad it could help if you went up just a little, but flat is ok, this would be the year for Harmony it would be ok but keep next year in mind as well and whether you will recover the fund balance you are using to fund the budget. CFO Reinalda suggested using the COAH Trust funds to off set the \$23,000. Now there is \$25,000 going into it and there is already about \$310,000 in that trust fund now. This could be an option. Not using the \$25,000 that is put in annually. The COAH is in a good position with the agreement in place. It was the consensus to pull the

\$25,000 out for COAH trust. Mr. Mooney said that would make the average taxpayer getting back \$1.00 for the year. Mayor Tipton stated with the solar project and potential of the recreational cannabis opportunities there will be serious revenues in the coming years hopefully starting in 2023. It was the consensus to introduce the budget as set on April 5th and consider adoption on May 3rd.

New
Business

Kelley advised the committee that she received a call from a resident on Montana Road that would like her yard cleaned of the dirt that was thrown on it from the snow plow. She stated that in the past there were some small things done for residents in the past but it was only if the yard was really dug into. This seems to be just small clumps of dirt that happens to everyone. Randy and Todd have inspected it and did not think it was out of the ordinary and if they start doing it everyone will want it done. Kelley described where it is located on Montana as the old Wolverton property. Mr. Cornely suggested we do not start doing this just like we don't plow private lanes. Kelley will reply to her email that it was determined to be normal wear and tear from road maintenance and we cannot do that for every person who asks. They can be proactive and protect themselves by sticking markers in the front of the yard during the winter season if they want to give guidance where their property line is.

The other item she brought to the committee was the green acres property on Hutchinson River Road that is owned by the Township. She has managed to get all the cars and boats removed that were parked there. They have left large ruts in the ground. She has also found out that the neighbor who is a disabled veteran has been paying for a mowing service to keep this property down since it is next to his property and on a sharp corner. It does become a safety issue if it is not kept mowed because of the sharp corner along the property. The county has installed signs along the other side of the road it is a very narrow corner. She would like to have our Road Department mow that parcel due to the safety issues involved. It does not have to be a finished mow weekly but maybe every other week with the batwing would be sufficient. Mayor Tipton said he thinks they could certainly distinguish the treatment of that parcel separate from the other ones along the banks of the river that are not maintained. Mr. Cornely discussed maybe coming up with a parking area for the people to use when their properties get flooded. Mayor Tipton didn't have any objections to our Road Department mowing it for safety purposes.

Mayor Tipton brought to the committee's attention an issue on Marble Hill Road with a property that has a lot of junk vehicles on it along with other junk items. He would like our Zoning Officer to inspect. Mrs. Yamrock brought up the other property that is farmland preserved on Marble Hill Road. She has received complaints about the care of the animals on the property. The sheep do not look care for. She also noted a lot of junk on the property. This property was previously cited for junk. Kelley will advise the Zoning officer to visit the sites and any others that have been identified as problematic. Kelley will also let ACO know about the animal issue. Mr. Cornely also said the humane society could be called also.

Public
Comment

None

Adjourn

Motion by Tipton, seconded by Cornely to adjourn the meeting at this time. The motion was carried unanimously by all in favor.

Kelley Smith, Municipal Clerk