

## Finance Committee Minutes - 2/4/16

Present: Jim Hamtil, George Fisher, Zach Rich, Dave Beaumont, Gary Hoyer  
Absent: Kiyle Osgood, Dan Malek, Porter Little  
Other: Ryan Rollero, DPW Supervisor

User Friendly Budget: Hal and Kiyle met with CFO and have 2015 data.

2016 Budget: No report

SHREC: Zach is working with Contractor to extend contract for a spring 2016 start. Shute brought up relocation of the array as a possible demand for the extension.

Roads/DPW: Ryan led a discussion of a short and longer road maintenance plan to be mostly funded by WAT and implemented by the DPW vs traditional heavy reliance on grants and paving contractors. Test projects in 2015 were successful in saving money but a substantial investment in equipment and materials will be necessary to implement the plan. Estimates are \$150K-\$250K/yr will be needed with the higher number short term and the lower number long term. Consensus was that bonding for the equipment and some of the 2016 projects be considered due to the current low interest rates and low asphalt prices.

Police/Courts: There was agreement that a possible agreement to use East Amwell Court facility and personnel is worth investigating for cost savings.

Fire Co: George reported that freeholder Walton is looking into a county level fire service, which would be paid vs WAT volunteer. There was agreement that cost of equipment and lack of volunteers would eventually force mergers or the hiring of professionals on volunteer fire companies

PennEast: No report

Trash/Recycling: Discussion of negotiating contract with curbside hauler led to no consensus and some concern of effect on in-house program. Based on informal talks with hauler, a contract for 400+ homes could be in the area of \$225/house/yr. In house permits are \$150/yr, so low volume customers may opt to go with curbside option, leaving in house program with high volume high cost users. Possible solution is to implement volume-based user fee for in house program and simultaneously lower base fee to \$100-\$125. However, implementation of volume-based plan is problematic.

Use of JCP&L Woodlands Mitigation Funds: Zach reported that at least \$60K of the \$110K must be used for "mitigation", the remaining \$50K is recommended to be used in the general budget to help offset startup costs of the roads program.

School Equalization Ratio: Dave reported that the latest data indicates that the savings resulting from the equalization ration appeal will be about \$82K spread over 2 years.

School State Aid: Dave is also looking into possible shortfall in state school aid vs what is indicated by the School Funding Act.

Next meeting: Feb. 18 (Later rescheduled to Feb. 29)  
Submitted by Hal Shute 2/28/16