

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of Dover Borough Council was held at Borough Hall, 46 Butter Road on January 17, 2014 at 7 pm. All the council members and the mayor were present. President Sabold called the meeting to order. A moment of silent prayer followed.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Sabold read a thank you note from the family of Charles Guise. A planter had been sent on the death of his wife. In addition, a sympathy card was sent to his son David's family. They had both served on the borough council.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether or not the General Fund budget would be amended to add \$6,000 to the health insurance category. This would be split equally between Duane Grim and Brad Lentz and used to assist with the cost of their family deductible. Mr. Sabold reviewed the decisions the council had made regarding the insurance in recent years.

- In 2009, the council set an annual maximum of \$35,000 they would contribute toward health insurance. There were four full-time employees.
- In 2010, there were only three full-time employees. The council discussed reducing the maximum to \$30,000, but it remained at \$35,000.
- In 2011, the maximum was increased to \$40,000.
- In 2013, the budgeted amount was \$49,560 and the deductible was a flat \$2,500.
- In 2014, the amount budgeted was \$45,600. This was a savings of \$3,910 over last year. The deductible increased to \$3,000 for an individual and \$6,000 for the family plans.

Mr. Sabold stated if the additional \$6,000 is added to the budgeted amount for health insurance it would be a net increase of only \$2,090 over the budgeted amount in 2013. He felt the employees were getting an excellent deal on what they had to contribute toward the cost of their health insurance. The council had made a decision based on incorrect information when they were given the opportunity to renew early. They believed the deductible was a flat \$3,000. Although the council was informed of the error, Duane Grim and Brad Lentz were not. Due to this, they asked the council to consider assisting them with the additional deductible.

Mr. Sabold stated it was his opinion that the additional \$6,000 should be added to the budgeted amount for health insurance. Mr. Grim and Mr. Lentz's family would receive up to \$3,000 if their deductible went above the \$3,000 individual deductible. Janet Shirey would not receive any assistance, since hers was only \$3,000. Mr. Sabold stated the employees should understand that next year the deductible and the amount the employees contribute would very likely increase.

Mr. Seidel suggested the council should meet with a representative from Benefit Connections this summer. He believed the council should receive an explanation of the changes and options available in health insurance. They should meet with them again at budget time, when they had to choose the health insurance for the following year, to explain the coverage in each plan option being offered. Once a decision was made the employees would be notified if there were any changes.

Ms. Bishop pointed out that the Sewer and Water Funds contribute toward the health insurance so the \$6,000 would not be paid entirely from the General Fund. Mr. Kroft calculated the amount per fund, based on the payroll percentages paid by each fund. General Fund - \$1,500 Sewer Fund - \$2,550 Water Fund - \$1,950

Revisions in allocations, but no amendments were necessary in the budgets to allow for the additional amount for health insurance because money could be reallocated within funds already budgeted.

Mrs. Shirey reviewed the updates to be made in each budget to verify the council's wishes. Mr. Seidel made a motion to make funds available from the General, Water and Sewer Funds for additional health insurance deductible costs. Mr. Dentler seconded the motion. Six were in favor. Mrs. Koch was opposed. Mr. Lentz thanked the council for making this money available to help him and Mr. Grim with their deductibles. Mr. Sabold reiterated that the employees would most likely see an increase in the deductible and premiums they pay next year.

Mr. Lentz provided a brief report on the January 15 meeting with the PA DEP. He and Dennis Sarpen met with representatives from the DEP to negotiate cancelling or lowering the fine. The DEP reps explained how the fine was calculated. The original fine was \$7,705. After initial negotiation it was reduced to \$5,545. After discussion at the meeting, the fine was reduced to \$5,005. The DEP reps said this was the lowest it would go. The federal EPA is keeping a close watch on how each state handles violations and is requiring fines. Mr. Lentz reported that if the spill had not been reported, there would have been an automatic fine of \$25,000 and the operator would lose his license. Mr. Sabold thanked Mr. Lentz and the public works guys for all they did to clean up the spill.

Mayor Pope reported Chief Bentzel spoke to Bev Mackereth. She was fairly certain Dover Area School District would receive the grant for a School Resource Officer. The mayor was also told that Dover Township was willing to purchase half a unit of additional protection if the borough only purchased half a unit.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Seidel. Mr. Kroft seconded the motion. It carried with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet T. Shirey
Secretary/Treasurer