



P.O. Box 1, Pocopson PA 19366  
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[www.pocopson.org](http://www.pocopson.org)

**Board of Supervisors Work Session Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 7, 2017**  
**6:30 PM**

This meeting was the first Work Session for the 2018 budget. In attendance were Supervisors Balsama, DiMonte and Stumpo, Public Works Director Mark Knightly, and Treasurer Peggy Lennon.

Public in attendance: 1

Stumpo opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public comment:** None

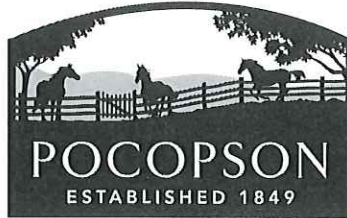
**2018 Budget:**

*Capital Reserve account:* Mark Knightly reviewed the 5-year capital plan, focusing on the approximately \$100,000 of planned equipment/vehicle purchases in 2018. After a few questions, the Board agreed to include those items in the 2018 budget. Resident Sam Kanjula asked whether the Township ever leases vehicles, rather than purchasing. Knightly explained that the customizing of the larger trucks encourages purchasing. Board asked that leasing be considered as an option for the acquisition of pickups and more standard vehicles.

*Highway Aid:* Preparations for winter operations were reviewed. Salt costs are budgeted for 2018 at the average spent over the last three years (2015-17, which included one extremely harsh winter and two fairly normal seasons).

*General Fund:* The portion of the property tax allocated to fire and ambulance services will be reduced by about \$92,000 in 2018 due to Pocopson's participation in the Kennett Regional Fire and EMS Commission. This money could be reallocated to general Township operations or used to reduce the property tax.

After discussion of both the Earned Income Tax (EIT) and property tax rates, the Board agreed to leave tax rates unchanged for 2018, in large part because of uncertainty about the extent and cost of future capital improvements to Township facilities. Once the feasibility study is complete (12/31/17), the Board will decide how to move forward with 740 Denton Hollow Road and the Barnard House, with the flexibility to fund those improvements from existing funds, a loan, or a combination of the two.



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Since January 2015, the allocation of property taxes has been:

- 1 mill for open space
- 0.5 mills for general Township purposes
- 0.5 mills for fire protection services
- 0.2 mills for ambulance, rescue and other emergency services

For the 2018 budget, the Board will pass a resolution that reallocates the taxes as follows:

- 1 mill for open space
- 0.8 mills for general Township purposes
- 0.25 mills for fire protection services
- 0.15 mills for ambulance, rescue and other emergency services

Decisions about how to allocate funding between the Kennett and West Chester libraries and whether or not to fund Kennett and/or West Chester Senior Centers will be made at the next meeting.

**Any other business which may come before the Board:**

Health Insurance: Balsama met with the Township's health insurance broker, Peterman Associates. Based on her review of coverage options and other Townships' costs, she recommended renewing the Township's existing coverage.

**Motion:** Balsama moved, Stumpo seconded, to renew employee medical insurance with Independence Blue Cross for the period 10/1/17 - 9/30/2018. Motion passed unanimously.

The General Reserve, Parks, Recreation & Trails, Historical and Open Space budgets will be reviewed at the next budget meeting, which will be an evening meeting to be scheduled in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Peggy Lennon, Treasurer

Ricki Stumpo, Chair