Jim Thorpe Borough Council
October 29, 2025
Budget Work Session Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Gregory Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for the armed forces, first responders and their families.

Roll Call of Members

Police Chief Schatz	Mayor Cinicola-absent	Mike Yeastedt
Borough Manager Sterner	Connor Rodgers-absent	Ted LaRizzio-absent
Borough Secretary Klotz	Tom Chapman-absent	Sydney Wernett
Solicitor Nanovic-absent	Joanne Klitsch	Greg Strubinger

Public Comment
None

Proposed 2025 Budget
Liquid Fuels Fund – Manager Sterner explained the state allocation has been declining and the Borough will be receiving less this year than last year. Line 432.200 Snow Removal has been moved into Liquid Fuels from Sanitation per the request of the auditor to remove all Streets items out of Sanitation. Council would need to ensure there are funds at the beginning of the year in 2027 and that isn't guaranteed in General Fund. Mike Yeastedt said he thought the Borough spent more than that this year on snow removal. Manager Sterner explained the 20% funds balance requirement for vehicles could be transferred into a Liquid Fuels savings account where it will earn interest, which will pay for a new truck in 5 or 6 years. Greg Strubinger asked if John Davis from PennDOT has reviewed all Borough roads to ensure they are all part of Liquid Fuels. Mike Yeastedt explained it has been reviewed.

Asa Packer Mansion – Secretary Klotz explained the ticket price will increase from $15.00 to $20.00 for an adult, $13.00 to $18.00 for a senior, $10.00 to $15.00 for military and students, and $6.00 to $10.00 for children. This is due the increasing costs of everything and no guarantee of grant funding. Other museums similar to ours in the area charge more than what is currently being charged at the Mansion and should be more in line with them. There will be a line added for fundraising. Line 453.341 Advertising is significantly increased from the 2025 budget due to not realizing the actual costs to advertise. Line 409.006 includes the purchase of a large lawn tent, tables, and chairs in order to hold fundraising events on the greenhouse terrace lawn area. Chief Schatz said a defibrillator can be removed from that line because the Police Department has extras, it just would need a new battery.

Special Revenue Fund-2026 Ladder Truck Budget – Manager Sterner explained she had not yet received the taxable amount from the county, so she had to use the same numbers from the 2025 budget. Once received, the numbers will be adjusted accordingly. Mike Yeastedt asked when the lease payment ends for the trucks. Manager Sterner said they end in 2033. Greg Strubinger asked why the name is call Ladder Truck and could the money be used for all of the Fire Department equipment. Manager Sterner said the money could be used for all equipment. Mike Yeastedt explained he is concerned about not having enough funds to be able to buy a new truck in 2033 and the borough should have a significant amount saved for a down payment.

Sewer Fund – Manager Sterner explained Treasurer Sebelin completed the Sewer budget with no changes in rates and is waiting on numbers for insurance. Trench shoring was budgeted in Major Purchases in 2025, but never purchased and it's being budgeted for again in 2026. It is a

USDA requirement to transfer at least $8,005.00 annually into the Capital Reserve Fund. This reserve amount is for maintenance and other purchases. Additional money is being transferred to this for a new SCADA system. $65,000.00 has been budgeted for manhole repairs and Sewer Supervisor Nahhas was hoping to increase this number. Non-Teamsters wages still need to be discussed. The vehicle and electronics lists still needs to be updated. Sludge removal has jumped due to bidding it out. Manager Sterner explained she still needs to review the budget further to ensure items listed in this budget haven't already been purchased. GIS mapping was completed sooner in water and will be starting year 1 of 3 in Sewer in 2026. Mike Yeastedt asked how the Borough would make up the difference due to the deficit in the draft. Manager Sterner explained Council could increase rates, cut the budget, or do a combination of both. Mike Yeastedt said costs have significantly increased in 2025 and continue to do so, but realizes most items listed in the budget are not optional. Greg Strubinger asked if service contracts are part of the equipment expense. Manager Sterner explained it was, but not many companies handle these specialty items. Mike Yeastedt recommended speaking with Supervisor Nahhas to see what can be pulled. Manager Sterner explained the money budgeted for the SCADA system can be pulled and if it were to fail, pull from the Capital Reserve Fund. She said she doesn't recommend pulling manhole & spot repairs. A 20% increase would be needed in order to cover the deficit. Greg Strubinger suggested using Capital Reserve Funds for large items like SCADA.

Water Fund – Manager Sterner explained Treasurer Sebelin completed the Water budget and would need to review it further. It looks like there are some items from 2025 that were purchased that are included in the 2026 budget. They will both sit down with Water Supervisor Sterner to review. Greg Strubinger asked about the mini excavator purchase. Manager Sterner explained the office just received the information on the mini excavator the day before. Mike Yeastedt explained the cost would be shared between the 3 departments. Currently, it costs approximately $7,000.00 to rent one.

Sanitation Fund – Secretary Klotz explained all of the Streets Department items have been moved into General Fund and it would need to be further determined if there will be a reduction in the garbage bill.

Capital Projects Fund – Manager Sterner explained $250,000.00 of the reserves is for Multimodal. Mike Yeastedt asked why the interest income is so low. It looks to be 1.5%. Manager Sterner explained interest rates continue to decline and she would review the interest amount. Connor Rodgers suggested looking into different banks for a better interest rate. Mike Yeastedt asked if this account is in PLGIT. Manager Sterner explained this account is not in PLGIT, but in Mauch Chunk Trust Company.

General Fund – Secretary Klotz explained she was unable to complete the draft for the meeting. Manager Sterner explained putting together all of the budgets this year has been difficult due to not getting the information needed to complete it in a timely manner. She recommended Borough Council review the draft and ask questions or make recommendations. She explained a line would need to be added for renting out 101 East 10th Street. She suggested increasing line 409.245 Supplies. Line 410.160 Minimum Municipal Obligation should be reviewed as the number looks too high. Sydney Wernett asked if line 410.231 Gas/Oil was a typo. Secretary Klotz explained it was and she would correct it. Manager Sterner explained line 411.215 can be reduced as some of the items listed were budgeted for this year and the funds would be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund. Mike Yeastedt recommended putting $25,000.00 in line 436.450 Contracted Services for Public Service to complete the work for South Avenue and the contracted work can be budgeted for in 2027. Secretary Klotz explained paving for the

Memorial Hall parking lot and East 10th Street will cost around $125,000.00 and is under line 438.741 Major Improve-Paving. Manager Sterner explained half the cost should be under buildings and the other half under streets. Connor Rodgers asked if there was any additional money budgeted for paving. Secretary Klotz explained she did not include anything extra and asked how much he felt should be included in the budget. He explained he would like to see an additional $200,000.00 included for paving. Secretary Klotz explained she would have the rest of the General Fund budget completed for next week's Work Session meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mike Yeastedt, second by Connor Rodgers to **adjourn the meeting.** There were no comments. Motion carries 5-0. The meeting ended at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Klotz
Assistant Borough Manager/Secretary