

***MINUTES OF THE
BOROUGH OF TOPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 28, 2024***

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Tipton Borough Council was called to order by Council President Haney at Borough Hall, 205 South Callowhill Street, Tipton, PA 19562 at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Miller, Council Members S. Arndt, C. Cook, C. Eisenhard, A. Falcone, D. Haney, K. Hassler, J. Pummer, and Borough Manager Stacy C. Milo.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Milo presented and reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Ms. Milo explained the purpose of the budget, the budget process, and accounting for the Borough of Tipton including taxes, revenues, and expenditures in fund accounting format, and a brief overview of each major fund. Ms. Milo referred to the printed materials available to the public. Ms. Milo also directed attention to the pie charts that include all expenditures by fund that were supplied at this meeting.

Mr. Haney asked for a motion to display and advertise the proposed 2025 Budget. Ms. Hassler made a motion to display and advertise the proposed 2025 Budget. Ms. Pummer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Milo announced that the budget will be on display at the Borough Hall during normal business hours for review.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Colleen Kristula commented that it is difficult to comment on something that she has not seen. Ms. Milo stated that the proposed budget will be available for anyone to view. Ms. Kristula also asked if they will be able to comment at the next meeting. Mr. Haney confirmed that comments may be made at the next budget meeting and Council has made some serious cuts and encourages everyone to review the budget.

Diane G. Stevenson asked if the budget covered only water and sewer for Tipton or if the Borough sells water and sewer outside of Tipton. Mr. Haney explained that small parts of Longswamp Township, including Freehall Street and Woodside Avenue, receive water/sewer services from our systems. Ms. Milo explained that the Tipton Lutheran Home receives sewer services under a contract. Mr. Haney explained that Tipton is a small borough with a small budget and expenses to pay with a small number of customers. Ms. Milo also stated that regulations apply to Tipton like they do to larger systems.

Ms. Kristula asked if the goal of Council is to not raise taxes. Mr. Haney confirmed that the goal is to not raise taxes. Ms. Hassler also confirmed this and stated the revenue received from a millage increase. Mr. Haney explained that this is a draft budget and the final may be greatly different from the final budget. Ms. Kristula asked if a merger with another municipality had ever been discussed. Ms. Falcone supplied some history and information about a merger and our

relationship with Longswamp Township and their community's needs. Ms. Kristula questioned if the Borough's low population could still support a small borough.

Maryellen Monaghan asked if Council could review the budget cuts. Council stated the following reductions to: Fleetwood Police, YMCA, some of the library's funding, Safety Net, and TCOC. Monica Kunkel asked about Safety Net and the requirement to have an animal control officer. Mr. Haney explained why some line items are unknown. Mr. Haney encouraged the library to ask the other municipalities to increase their contributions.

Ms. Kristula explained the demographics of those who use the library and suggested considering raising taxes to support the budget rather than budget cuts. Ms. Falcone supported looking at the draft budget and tightening our belts by cutting small amount here and there.

Mr. Haney stated that there are several factors that are unknown now including a collective bargaining agreement.

Ms. Monaghan requested that Council reconsider the cut to the library. Ms. Cook expressed that it is not fair for Topton to contribute a disproportionate amount and the other municipalities need to step up. Ms. Kristula stated that they have been asked to increase their contributions.

Ms. Kunkel asked if the Borough was filling the open Borough position at the waste water treatment plant. Mr. Haney stated that it was not being filled at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Arndt made a motion to adjourn the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget meeting at 7:28 PM. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy C. Milo
Borough Manager/Secretary