# Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session October 21, 2025

### In Attendance:

**Board of Supervisors:** Chairman, Jennifer Herring, Vice-Chairman, Barbara N. Lyons, Dan Wood, Judy Dixon, and Nancy Santacecilia via phone.

Finance Committee: Eric Cornwell, Chris Giolli, and Christina Maida.

**Township Staff:** Township Manager, Stephanie Mason, Assistant Township Manager, Andrea Mergner, Finance Director, Ken Wallace, Assistant Finance Director, John Michael Signorelli, Township Budget Analyst, Ed Ebenbach and Chief of Police, Charles Zeigler.

Ms. Herring welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

All in attendance introduced themselves.

## **Capital Plan**

There were no questions from the attendees on the 2026-2030 capital items.

Mr. Wallace presented the 2025-2026 Capital Projects and timeline.

## 2026-2030 Operations Plan

Mr. Wallace summarized the highlights of the 2026 Operations Forecast including the main assumptions and items to watch.

The Board discussed the 5-year projection and made it clear that the Board is only able to increase millage and act upon the budget for the upcoming year. Looking at the outer years is just a projection for planning purposes. Ms. Herring made a comment that most municipalities don't do a projection that far out.

The Board and finance committee discussed Park & Recreation programs, and the expenses associated with running them.

#### 2026 Real Estate Tax Millage

Mr. Wallace gave a summary on the proposed millage plan. Mr. Ebenbach indicated that the proposed millage increase of .25 which is about \$10 per year per average household for the year.

#### **Fund Balance Forecast**

Mr. Ebenbach provided a graph identifying the fund balances and stated that our fund balances are in a healthy position.

Mr. Wallace explained that when the auditor presents at the Board meeting, it will be noted that the General Fund appears slightly reduced because of the transfers made to support capital projects.

Mr. Ebenbach explained that he added a document outlining the Township's annual debt service obligations, which details the notes, bonds, and corresponding payment requirements. He noted that while this information is important for budgeting purposes, it can be difficult to interpret. To make it clearer, he created a new graph illustrating the costs in dollars compared to millage. The payments are categorized by purpose, including the Administrative Building, Public Works building, Accelerated Road Program, and the Community Recreation Center/Park Improvement Project.

Ms. Santacecilia asked what percentage of the Township's budget is allocated to debt and how that compares to surrounding municipalities.

Mr. Ebenbach responded that the Township's debt payments are approximately 10 to 11 percent of the budget.

Mr. Wallace noted that he was not familiar with the debt levels of other municipalities.

Mr. Wallace stated that he is seeking Board consensus to proceed with the next steps in the budget process.

Ms. Santacecilia expressed that she is not comfortable with the proposed ¼ mill millage increase and does not support moving forward with finalizing the preliminary budget document.

However, there was a consensus among the majority of the Board to proceed with finalizing the preliminary budget document and having the Finance Department compile the budget book for review and consideration at the November Board of Supervisors meeting.

**Adjournment:** there being no further business and upon motion by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Wood, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie J. Mason

Secretary