

Byram Township Council Meeting Minutes 08/16/2022 - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2023 Budget Goals & Objectives:

Mr. Sabatini provided the Mayor & Council with a budget memo on July 19, 2022, and asked that they identify the goals and objectives for 2023. Mr. Sabatini received responses from three of the five members and those responses had been included in the agenda packet for the August 16th meeting. Mr. Sabatini combined those responses. Mr. Sabatini expect the department budgets by the end of the month from the department heads. This is the most important annual policy statement that the Township Council makes. It defines the local government team will implement its priorities for the next fiscal year, and where the money will come from to carry out that work plan.

The budget is:

- A statement of priorities for the community
- A management blueprint for providing services
- The document that translates policies into action
- A tool for protecting the government's long-term financial health
- A communication document for the public

The Mayor and Council should identify the goals and objectives for 2023 to identify resources including funding needs to carry out the work plan. It is critical to link policies and money through the annual budget. It is being planned that all budget meetings will be done as advertised meetings of the Mayor and Council. The first budget meeting is scheduled to be in the fall.

Mr. Sabatini would like to define the needs and goals.

Councilman Bonker asked based on the numbers provided, the contractual obligations have already doubled and are already over the 2%. Therefore, they are looking at doubling the appropriation cap. This is a huge change to what was presented in the last few years. Councilman Bonker said if they do not want to go to 4% and take from fund balance, what do they have as options to stop doing.

Councilman Roseff suggested submitting their thoughts on that over the next few weeks.

Councilman Bonker suggested looking to the manager on his suggestions as to where there can be cuts.

Mayor Rubenstein said it is not for the manager to decide what to cut. It is up to the council to make that decision.

Joe suggested reviewing this again at the second meeting in September.