

Supervisors whittle away at 2012 budget

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=340563>

After an executive session, several Amity Township supervisors pulled out their glasses as they returned to the meeting table: It was time for a second look at budget numbers for 2012.

The township is facing a \$192,000 shortfall next year, about \$6,000 more than supervisors were expecting. At the last township meeting, supervisors estimated a deficit of \$186,000.

But supervisors were not expecting an 18 percent increase in health insurance rates for township employees, which accounts for the latest estimate, Supervisor Kim McGrath said.

Supervisors carefully examined the budget Wednesday, trying to save \$1,000 here, \$3,000 there.

"These are just drops in a big bucket," McGrath said, adding that even the smallest trims are necessary.

By meeting's end, supervisors had taken \$5,000 total from four line items in the police department's budget.

McGrath said the money came from supplies and general maintenance and that deductions were based on what the police department had spent so far in 2011.

Supervisors exchanged several ideas on how they might reduce the deficit. They will continue to discuss the budget next month.

"Our goal is to balance the budget without raising taxes," McGrath said.

- By Jamie Klein