

Amity Police Assoc. refuses contract offer: New contract won't save township \$100,000

http://www.berksmonline.com/articles/2011/12/13/southern_berks_news/news/doc4ee7767673ea6857632984.bt

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For Journal Register News Service

Published: Tuesday, December 13, 2011

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors returned to the contract negotiating table Dec. 7 after the Amity Township Police Association rejected the township's latest offer that included saving the township \$100,000 in health insurance money.

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon told the board on Nov. 16 that he had located health insurance with the same coverage but administered by the township and providing substantial savings.

"We need to save the taxpayer in the right way and pursue this," said Supervisor Terry L. Jones. "Our only option is to pursue this and because we can get it done."

Lyon said Dec. 7 the township's savings would be \$100,000.

That is the same amount needed to hire a replacement police officer - a 2012 expenditure rejected by the board in order to balance the 2012 without a tax increase.

The board unanimously approved on Nov. 16 to advertise its 2012 \$3,740,192 budget with no tax increase.

It reduced a \$186,000 deficit with two administrative staff cuts and the use of general fund and 2011 surplus money.

Township Solicitor Brian F. Boland said the township cannot implement the new health insurance with the refusal of the Amity Township Police Association, although it was approved by the Teamsters Local Union 429 Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Joint Council No. 53.

"The township could implement the health insurance but the police indicated they would [proceed] with legal challenges," said Boland.

Jones said the Teamsters were glad to save the township \$100,000, but the Police Association used the offer as a negotiating point for changes to 13 other "options on their wish list [contract]."

Boland said prescription reimbursements with the new insurance would have been a little different but there is "no guarantee that it would be worse" and that plan members would pay more.

Both contracts expire Dec. 31.

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