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Amity plans for no tax increase in 2010-11

By Denise Larive, News Writer

Amity Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Robert R. Yanos said Sept. 1 that the township doesn't intend to raise taxes in 2010-11.

"Are we at all interested in raising taxes?" asked Yanos. "If the answer is no, cut, cut, cut. People [township committees] are really going to have to justify an increase — even to keep what they have."

Yanos said the Amity Fire Department is requesting that the township increase the fire company's annual allocation above the current \$35,000.

"The cost to run the fire department, specifically the trucks, that is what they need to submit to us," said Supervisor Terry L. Jones, adding that the township wants the fire department's expenses for 2009 to the present.

Supervisor Paul R. Weller said the township wants full disclosure and to know why the trucks are driven to Pottstown for gas instead of filling up in Amity Township.

"They are supposed to be responsible (ensuring) that everything is spent wisely," said Weller.

Township staff will begin the 2010-11 budget process by meeting first with its internal departments and then meeting with township committees during supervisor meetings to determine necessary expenses.

Yanos said township employees will get a four percent increase, per their contracts.

In other

business:

- The board said it will exclude all of the following chemical manufacturing and processes from the proposed Amity Township Western Industrial Park: acetylene, aniline, dyes, ammonia; carbide, caustic soda; cellulose; chlorine, carbon black and bone black; cleaning and polishing preparations; creosote; exterminating agents; hydrogen and oxygen; industrial alcohol; nitrating of cotton or other materials; nitrates of an explosive nature; potash; plastic materials and synthetic rosins; pyroxlin;

rayon yarn; hydrochloric, picric or sulfuric acids and derivatives.

The decision was made to exclude these items based on another township's ordinance. Also prohibited are incineration or reduction of garbage, offal, and dead animals, except by municipal agencies or municipality-owned lots, fat rendering, leather and fur tanning; junk, salvage or automobile wrecking yard, reducing, refinancing, smelting, and alloying of metal and metal ores, refining of petroleum or petroleum products, distillation of wood or bones, reduction or processing of wood pulp or wood fibers.

Amity will also prohibit trash transfer stations.

The manufacture of asphalt would be excluded, as well as charcoal and lampblack; coals, coke and tar products; explosives; fertilizer; glue; gelatin; ink; linoleum and oilcloth; matches; paint; varnishes and turpentine, rubber, caoutchouc, gutta percha (including processing); soap; starch; shoddy and waste products.

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon said the prohibitions are industrial uses and not usually related to commercial or retail uses.

"People may be happy to see a list of what wouldn't go into AWIP," said Jones.

The board and an AWIP Committee are writing the AWIP zoning ordinance for commercial and retail uses on about 600 acres on north Limekiln Road.

- Supervisors are also writing a zoning ordinance for a 100-acre site zoned light industrial off of Township Line and Toll Gate roads.

Land owner and developer Anthony Toretta (Toretta Realty Corp., Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County) wants to put commercial, retail, and residential units on the site.

The draft said residential units would be limited to one to two bedrooms with no extra "den," "study," or loft areas that could be converted into a bedroom, and there won't be any recreational amenities on site for kids.

The draft ordinance to Toretta will include that the completion of 25 percent of commercial will permit construction of 50 percent residential, and completion of the other 25 percent commercial will permit the construction of the final 50 percent of residential.

Toretta's request of 40 percent residential was recommended by the board last month to be reduced to 20 percent of net acreage on parcels of 50 acres or less.

Developers with parcels of 50 or more acres could increase the residential to 25 percent of net acreage if they construct Lead certified buildings.

The draft ordinance will be sent to Tornetta.