The Dover Township Board of Supervisors held a work session on Monday, February 13, 2012, which began at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room of the Dover Township Municipal Building. Dover Township Supervisors present were Chairperson Madelyn Shermeyer, Monica Love, Michael Husson, Charles Richards, and Matthew Menges. Laurel Wilson, Township Manager; Wayne Latchaw, Jr., Facilities Superintendent; Charles Farley, Public Works Director and Dawn Slegel, Recording Secretary were also present.

The purpose of the work session was to make a presentation on a mowing proposal for the 2013 Budget.

Mr. Latchaw had given the Board a packet of information on which he expounded upon. He explained the dissatisfaction with the contractor’s performance. There have been several times that the Board has withheld payment for their inability to adhere to the Township’s contract. He reviewed the costs associated with the mowing contract and developed cost figures for Township employees to assume the task. The proposal involves a modest investment in equipment. The Water and Wastewater Departments have agreed to handle the mowing of their respective properties. This procedure would also lend toward better security of these facilities. In order to handle the other entities, he considered the hiring of two seasonal employees for a twenty-eight week time frame. Currently, there are issues with obtaining parts for the 1968 and 1969 Vintage mowers purchased along with the sale of the golf course property. He decided to strip the parts from one mower to make the other mower operable. Using only one mower will prolong the golf course property mowing to a total of three and a half days. He is left with a dilemma of either adding the golf course to the existing mowing contract or replacing a lawn mower so the crew can complete the mowing in a quicker time frame. Corey Flythe, the Crew Leader of the Water Department, indicated to Mr. Latchaw that he is elated to be able to mow the well houses and pump stations. Mr. Latchaw has requested the following equipment to satisfactorily perform the mowing duties of the Township properties: a 16 foot wide area mower batwing, a 72 inch zero turn mower, and a 18 foot tilt trailer. The costs associated with this equipment were acquired through the State Costars Program. The blades on the existing mowers have not been sharpened for five years according to the records from Grandview Golf Course who provided the service. The seasonal hires’ wages were estimated to be a total of $13,856.66 per year for both at $10.31 each per hour. He figured that for the most part, all of the Township properties, excluding the pump stations and the treatment plant, can be mowed in forty hours with good conditions. At times, he may have to supplement with one of his regular crew. The Township properties to be mowed by the Facilities Department will consist of the Township recreation areas and parks, the Municipal Building, the golf course property, and four retention ponds.

Mr. Latchaw answered Supervisor Menges’ inquiry on the long term life of this equipment. He anticipated twelve years to be the lifetime expectancy of a commercial mower or up to fifteen years per the salesman’s estimation.
Supervisor Richards commented that 4,000 hours is the maximum limit of the actual use time of a commercial mower. He calculated the Township’s estimated use to be approximately 560 hours per year. To extend the life of the mower, he suggested not to mow when the grass is wet or after mowing wash the mower thoroughly to remove the grass which acts as an acid.

Supervisor Husson questioned the yearly maintenance costs and gasoline costs associated with the proposal.

Mr. Latchaw admitted that these costs were not figured into his information because the difficulty in explaining all the technicalities.

Manager Wilson reported that seasonal employees pursuant to the Union Contract may work from Memorial Day to Labor Day and would not fit into the twenty eight week mowing season. A part-time employee is permitted per the Contract but involves negotiating the pay because of the requirement for the payment of union dues.

Manager Wilson responded affirmatively to Supervisor Menges’ question as to whether seasonal employees are eligible for unemployment.

Supervisor Richards reported that the estimated yearly maintenance of a commercial grade zero turn mower is approximately $350.

Supervisor Shermeyer added the importance of drying the blades after washing the machinery.

Mr. Latchaw noted that the Township does already have the necessary small equipment such as string trimmers and leaf blowers.

Manager Wilson reported that a job description would need to be prepared for this new permanent part-time position if warranted.

Mr. Latchaw provided options for the mowing of the golf course property. He has to park the one mower to use for parts leaving him with one mower and not enough manpower to have a crew member on the mower for three days. He requested the purchase of the sixteen foot WAM batwing mower or an extra person to assist with the work in the parks. He has made repairs to the existing zero turn mower.

Manager Wilson asked Mr. Latchaw if he obtained a lease price for the batwing mower. The term of a lease is usually five years and then may be purchased for ownership.

The Board agreed that Mr. Latchaw should investigate the lease of a batwing mower. The Board is looking favorably for the Township crews to undertake the mowing responsibilities of the Township properties. The existing mowing contract will terminate in early 2013.
The work session was concluded at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: ________________________________

Dawn D. Slegel, Secretary