VILLAS — Lower Township ap- proved its 2021-22 budget after passing an amendment to cut earlier proposed tax increases in half by using $2.2 million in federal COVID stimulus money.

Council delayed approving the bud- get at its June 7 meeting. The council could have applied federal COVID stimulus money to its budget.

Township Council introduced its 2021-22 budget at its May 24 meeting, which provides for a 1.98 per- cent property tax increase. All council members voted to adopt the five-year budget, which includes $18.7 million in operating expenses, $18.3 million in capital expenditures and $2.2 million in federal COVID stimulus money.

The amount of surplus remaining after the actual current year expenses were calculated to be $3.1 million, which was $1.9 million less than the board estimated in the budget.

Administrator Mike Laffey said the township is on track to spend $2.2 million in federal COVID stimulus money this year and the other half in the 2022 budget. Both the council member's vote to approve the budget for fiscal year 2021-22 and the third party appraiser's appraisal of the township's real estate.

At a June 23 council meeting, Laffey said the township is receiving $2.2 million in federal COVID stimulus money this year and the other half in the 2022 budget. The council member's vote to approve the budget for fiscal year 2021-22 and the township's real estate.

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