

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT Jan Beatty, Commissioner
John K. Gallagher, Commissioner
Dale A. Sourbeck, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT John J. Merhottein, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Andrew Freda, Finance Director
Anthony Giovannini, Township Solicitor
Gregory Gottschall, Police Chief
Jackie Bittel, BTCC Director
Amanda Raudenbush, Planning Director, AICP

OPENING STATEMENTS Mr. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first of three budget hearings.

Mr. Bruce noted that this proposed budget is balanced, with no proposed tax increase, in part due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which is pandemic-related funding provided by the federal government. The township received at total of \$2.5 million in ARPA funding. Mr. Bruce said this budget proposes no real estate tax, stormwater fee, or sewer fee increase.

POLICE Chief Gottschall thanked the board for their continued support. He said his department's proposed budget includes three new officers, due to the growth and population of the township. Mr. Sourbeck asked how much would it cost to hire an additional clerk. Mr. Bruce said \$55,000 in salary plus \$25,000 in benefits. Chief Gottschall said the department was doing okay with one clerk for now. Mr. Gallagher asked why the detective budget line was at a zero. Chief Gottschall said that position had been vacant for many years. Mr. Gallagher asked why the line item for training and education was at zero. Mr. Bruce said that line item was used to reimburse officers taking college courses and was negotiated out of the contract about five years ago. Chief Gottschall said normal training and education fall under accreditation. Mr. Gallagher asked why materials and supplies were at zero. Chief Gottschall that line can be removed as those costs had been moved into the safety and equipment line.

Chief Gottschall said they are requesting three police vehicles. A grant was submitted for two of them. Mr. Gallagher asked what the shelf life of tasers were. Chief Gottschall said 5-10 years.

**BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth asked where the budget for the fuel was located. Mr. Bruce said it was in the PPIS budget under material and supplies. He said the cost increased from \$165,000 to \$216,000 and includes fuel for all township vehicles.

Mr. Bruce said that the Police budget is the largest part of the budget and he supports the hiring of three new police officers.

COMMUNITY CENTER Mr. Bruce said that revenues in 2019 were approximately \$1.2 - \$1.3 million. In 2020, they fell over \$1 million short due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Bruce said

revenues increased to \$475,000 in 2021 and continued to increase to 826,000 in 2022.

Jackie Bittel, BTCC director, said the revenue for the outdoor pool and summer camp has doubled this past year. She is requesting no changes in full-time staffing. Mr. Gallagher said he would like a room dedicated to the late Commissioner Davis. Mr. Sourbeck asked if any money was budgeted for the playgrounds. Mr. Bruce said the money is budgeted under Public Works.

Ms. Bittel said money was budgeted for the following items:

- Gel coat on the outdoor swimming pool slide
- Replacement of the spa heater
- Replacement of equipment in fitness room
- Replacement of table and chairs in multipurpose room
- Replacement of gym floor

Mr. Bruce said no major building upgrades are proposed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Bruce said the Community Development department is requesting a new full-time clerk and a new vehicle. Amanda Raudenbush, department director, said in 2022, two vehicles were totaled in accidents, neither the fault of the township employee driving. One vehicle has since been replaced, paid for by insurance money. She is requesting the other vehicle be replaced as well. Mr. Gallagher asked if there were any retired police vehicles available to assign to the Community Development department. Mr. Bruce said there were no such vehicles available. Mr. Gallagher asked to staff to consider purchasing a hybrid or EV vehicle.

Ms. Raudenbush said the department has one full-time clerk to handle walk-in customers and phone calls. The clerk often spends 90 minutes per day checking and responding to phone messages, she said. She has requested an additional full-time clerk to better handle the workflow. Ms. Beatty asked if the two clerks would be able to answer the phone live. Ms. Raudenbush said that is the goal.

Mr. Roth said four vehicles were purchased when Mr. Kutzler was in office. He said there are five old police cars that can be used. Mr. Roth said he has been complaining about this for 15 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bruce said the next budget hearing is Tuesday, October 25, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata
Recording Secretary

