

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** John J. Merhottein, President  
Jan Beatty, Commissioner  
John K. Gallagher, Commissioner  
Dale A. Sourbeck, Commissioner

**OTHERS PRESENT** Doug Bruce, Township Manager  
Andrew Freda, Finance Director  
Anthony Giovannini, Township Solicitor  
CJ Kuryona, Chief, BTVFC  
Nick Santiago, Treasurer BTVFC  
Joel Steirer, Chief, NRFC  
Kyle Abrecht, Treasurer NRFC  
Eric Vernon, BTAA Treasurer  
Eric Vernon, FBTA President

**OPENING STATEMENTS** Mr. Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the second of three budget hearings.

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** Nick Santiago, BTVFC Treasurer, said the major changes in equipment and supplies is largely due to mandated certification. There is also a request for a power stretcher. Mr. Gallagher noted that the building expenses is item with the largest increase.

Chief Kuryona said the air pack equipment is 13 years old and needs to be replaced as they are crucial in the first line of survival for the fire fighters. Mr. Gallagher asked if the purchase could be phased in. Chief Kuryona said he prefers to purchase them all together and added that lease purchase programs make that possible.

Mr. Bruce said the fire company is requesting six capital purchases: stretcher lift replacement, defibrillators, CPR devices, air pack equipment and radio replacement. He said they are seeking grant money for the stretcher, defibrillators and CPR devices. There is no grant funding currently for the air packs and radio replacement.

**NANCY RUN FIRE COMPANY** Chief Steirer said the company recently paid the mortgage off and noted that vehicle maintenance expenses has increased. The company is requesting to replace the fire truck which is 20 years old. Mr. Bruce added that the purchase will be in the 2024 budget due to delivery timing. Mr. Gallagher thanked the fire companies for their dedication. Mr. Merhottein thanked the Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company for all their work with Community Days.

**FREEMANSBURG BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION** Mr. Vernon requested an extra \$2,000 in contribution from the township as the association cares for its own facilities, and maintenance and fuel costs have gone up significantly. Mr. Sourbeck asked how many children participate. Mr. Vernon said they have 347 children registered, ages 4-19. Mr. Gallagher noted the lighting replacement. Mr. Vernon said they would like to replace all the lights with LED and is waiting for the quotes.

**BETHLEHEM  
TOWNSHIP  
ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Vernon said the association has had an increase in registration. He said they roof at the North 40 and handicap ramp will be completed as an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Vernon said the organization's focus is on safe equipment. Mr. Merhottein thanked both athletic associations for all they do for the children.

Mr. Bruce said the final budget hearing is Thursday, November 3, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata  
Recording Secretary