

**Bertrand Township Board  
2020/2021 Budget Planning Workshop  
Saturday, January 30, 2021**

Via Video-Conference during the historic COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic

Supervisor Hicks called the workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

Members Absent: None

Also present: Bill Knisely, Bertrand Township Fire Chief; Matt Remmo, BTFD Assistant Fire Chief

**Fire Department Budget Considerations**

The tentative budget (attached) as presented by Chief Knisely is \$225,000.

Chief is eliminating Pest Control services at a savings of about \$1,000.

Remmo has applied for an AFG Grant for 18 packs for four participating departments (Buchanan City, Buchanan Twp, Bertrand Twp, ?), requesting \$427,114. Of that, the departments must come up with 10% or \$42,711.

Remmo has applied for a \$27,000 grant for extraction equipment from Firehouse Subs. They will purchase only with grant money.

**Proposed Pay Increases**

- Officers: There's one Captain and one Lieutenant, each of whom has assumed the responsibilities of a second counterpart that no longer exists. Chief proposed a 20% increase in each of the officers' salaries to help compensate for the extra work. The board unanimously agreed this is too steep an increase.
- The board brainstormed as to how to compensate appropriately for the extraneous work performed and were thinking outside the box. No conclusions, but ideas included:
  - \$1/hr pay increase for every 5 years of service through 20 years
  - Officer stipends for training preparation, grant writing, communication responsibilities, etc.
- 3% proposed increase for Chief, Asst. Chief and Officers.
- Certified pay continues to start at \$16 for each of the five pay categories (Fire Calls, Training, Work Detail, Meetings, and Online Training).
- \$11.00/hr – non-certified pay.

**General Fund Budget**

Commenced at 10:20 a.m.

Treasurer Kuhn supplied projected income:

Tax Revenue: \$155,000  
State Revenue Sharing: \$240,585  
Landfill Tipping Fees: \$115,000  
Interest Income: \$6,000

Total Income: \$516,585

Projected expense for Highways, Bridges, Roads: \$202,000

Vite proposed MTA All-Access training for all township personnel: \$1,900/yr

Discussion of budgeting for BS&A modules over next three fiscal years (this, 21/22, and 22/23). Proposal was in the \$44,000 ballpark for Community Development, Payroll, and Financial. Each FY would pay about 1/3 the expense.

Proposed Pay Increases

- Up to 3% increase for all salaried, except Trustees which would be 5% to help alleviate disparity created years ago.
- PC, BOR, and other meeting rates (SMCAS, NATS, etc.) remain the same.
- Elections remain the same:
  - Election Inspectors - \$15/hr
  - Election Chairperson(s) - \$15.50/hr

With no further discussion, **motion** by Hicks to adjourn at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite  
Bertrand Township Clerk

February 7, 2021  
Dated