

Borough of Bryn Athyn
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2019
6:00pm

In attendance: Duane Hyatt, Chair
Chris Carter
Vikki Trost
Glenn Gurney
Jeff Elsing

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duane Hyatt at 6:00pm.

2020 Budget Request Presentations

Fire Company

Lach Brown, Scott Cooper and Ken Schauder presented the Fire Company budget request. The Fire Company requested the same amount as this year, Fire Protection \$74,000 and Emergency Medical Services \$22,500.

The issues with the failed merger with Huntingdon Valley Fire Company were discussed.

Potential future expenses of the Fire Company include:

- Building improvements
- Lease renewal issues
- Converting EMT's from third party employees to BAFC employees

Public Works

Mark Pennink requested the same amount as this year in the line items - \$329,997. Mr. Pennink requested \$30,000 in additional or re-allocated funds every year for unplanned expenses that arise, such as the Alden Road drains which had to be repaired this year and the storm drain at 2500 Alden Road last year.

Next year, Public Works will pave Quarry Road from Cathedral Road to the cemetery without milling in order to build a thicker base. This will extend the life of the road. The edges of Buck Road will be paved as well.

Mr. Pennink stated that he is making real progress with maintaining Borough roads. He would like to replace the Belgium block gutters with curbs. The block gutters have been altered over the years and no longer perform as designed. Parking on one side of the Loop was briefly discussed. Masons Mill Road does not hold up well because of all the traffic.

Police Department

Chief Steve Gray presented the Police Department budget without salary information because the police contract for 2010 has not been completed. Mr. Elsing provided a spreadsheet showing salary increases to bring the new officers up to the base patrolman salary over five years along with the Longevity schedule. The Police budget represents 40% of the Borough budget.

Vikki Trost reported that Drew Nehlig has offered to contribute \$2,000 per year to pay Ray Doman for the work in the police station that he has been performing as a volunteer. Drew will provide additional donor if more funds are needed. Mr. Hyatt asked if the Borough insurance police would cover Ray as a volunteer just as the ANC school insurance policy does. Vikki Trost will consult the insurance agent.

Chief Gray reported that he is hoping that the 2013 police car will make it to 2020 when a new vehicle purchase is planned. The Committee discussed permitting Chief Gray to purchase the new car now with reserve funds, keeping the purchase funds in the 2020 budget.

Sewer Department

Reid Heinrichs presented the Sewer budget request. The Committee asked if the revenue showing on the budget reflects the new billing calculation. Mr. Heinrichs responded that it did not and gave an explanation as to why he could not use the billing formula. The Committee explained that the reasoning behind the new formula is to fairly charge all customers. Mr. Heinrichs argued that a Borough ordinance (#590 1/6/2003) created the whole sewage rate at twice the effluent rate and that is the rate that should be used. The Committee agreed that the formula needs to be reviewed now that we have almost twenty years of actual cost data. It was agreed that Bill Brown of Environmental Engineering & Management Associates will be consulted on the cost difference to process whole sewage versus effluent. Funds will need to be allocated for a report from Bill Brown.

Mr. Hyatt reported that the Academy Board was pleased that the equalization project came in under budget and approved the replacement of the back-up blower.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

For the next meeting:

- 1. Vikki will send a reminder to the committee regarding the next meeting on the Friday prior to the meeting.***

Next meeting date: October 29, 2019 at 5:30pm in Borough Hall.