

Borough of Bryn Athyn  
Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes

---

---

October 20, 2020  
6:00pm

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

Attending via Zoom Conferencing: Scott Cooper  
Lach Brown  
Ken Schauder  
Trina Wilson

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

**Minutes**

The Committee approved the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes.

**2021 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**Fire Company**

Scott Cooper represented the Fire Company. BAFC requested the same budget (\$74,000 Fire Company Allocation; \$22,500 Ambulance Allocation) as was granted for 2020. Mr. Cooper noted that the career staff is the largest expense for the department. Paid staff are now BAFC employees. The Fire Company is aggressively collecting delinquent accounts; \$100,000 is generated from solicitations in Bryn Athyn and Lower Moreland; County, state and federal grant funding is another source of income. The Fire Company currently holds investments in the amount of \$4.8 million.

BAFC President Lach Brown noted that volunteers are down and the department is moving toward paid firefighters. BAFC responds to a large amount of Lower Moreland fire calls during the day, adding that the Township is not ready to force the merger conversation with their fire department. HV Fire Company is planning a stipend program where they will pay volunteers to be in the HVFC station.

## **Police Department**

Chief Steve Gray presented the Police Department 2021 Budget request, \$468,828, which is a reduction from this year's budget. The Chief noted that 2021 is the last step up for Ken Johnson and Doug Hotchkiss to reach the current officer base salary. Kevin Green has three years until he reaches the officers base salary.

Chief Gray requested an increase in the uniform budget noting that one body armor vest must be replaced each year. BAPD donates the old vests to BAFC and the military. The Chief noted that ammunition is still difficult to obtain.

Mr. Elsing suggested that the Finance Committee revisit the police vehicle replacement schedule.

## **Sewer Department**

The 2021 proposed Sewer Budget \$382,090 was submitted without revenue numbers. Glenn Gurney will ask Bill Brown at Environmental Engineering Management Associates (EEMA) to do the calculation for 2021 revenue.

The Committee discussed the proposed 5% pay increase for Reid Heinrichs. It was noted that Reid's salary has not increased for two years and recommended the 5% increase for 2021.

## **Public Works**

Mark Pennink did not submit a new budget for 2021. The Public Works Budget will remain the same for 2021.

## **Debt Service Budget**

Vikki Trost presented the Debt Service Budget \$134,067 which reflects the payments due for the General Obligation Bonds of 2010 (Sewer Construction Financing) and the General Obligation Note of 2015 for the Fire Truck payment. Mrs. Trost noted that the last payment for the General Obligation Bonds is November 2022.

## **Administrative**

Vikki Trost noted that insurance costs are about the same, pay increases are at 2.5% which are in-line with police increases, no increase for most administrative items.

## **Health Insurance**

Trina Wilson, our insurance agent with Kistler-Tiffany Benefits, attended the meeting via Zoom Conferencing. The current health insurance plan will increase 13.4% effective December 1, 2020. Trina introduced a new health insurance plan through Independence Blue Cross who currently provides the Keystone Health Plan East insurance coverage. The proposed plan is a high-deductible, HRA (Health Reimbursement Arrangement) plan which would eliminate all copays for employees and expand the physician network. The premium for the plan is about half the cost of the current plan. The Borough would contract with a third-party administrator for debit cards for all employees. The debit cards would be used to pay medical costs, including prescriptions, until the employee met their deductible. At that point, the insurance company would pay 50% of the claims. When an employee meets the out-of-pocket maximum of \$13,800 per family, the insurance company would pay 100% of the claims. Trina noted that the Borough could save up to \$30,000 per year depending on the actual expenses of all employees. At the very least, the Borough would save \$3,000 just for switching to the new plan. The Committee agreed to present the new plan to the police officers.

## **Discussion**

The proposed 2021 General Fund Budget reflects a shortfall of \$44,486. The Committee agreed to remove the \$12,449 Contingency reducing the shortfall to \$32,037 and Vikki will adjust the assessed valuation when it is received on November 15. The Committee will review the budgets and forward comments via email. Duane Hyatt will report on the status to Borough Council at the November meeting. The 2021 Budgets will be adopted at the December meeting.

## **NEW ITEMS**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

### ***For the next meeting:***

- 1. Vikki will remove Contingency funds from budget.***
- 2. Jeff will make contact with Doug Hotchkiss regarding health insurance***
- 3. Glenn will ask Bill Brown to do the billing calculation***
- 4. Vikki will adjust tax revenue when Assessed Valuation is available***
- 5. Vikki will send a reminder to the committee regarding the next meeting on the Friday prior to the meeting.***

***Next meeting date: November 17, 2020 at 6:00pm in Borough Hall.***