

**BUDGET MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT Michael Hudak, President
Malissa Davis, Commissioner
John Gallagher, Commissioner
John Merhottein, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT Doug Bruce, Township Manager
Andrew Freda, Finance Director
Richard Grube, Public Works Director
Steve Hunsberger, PPIS Director

OPENING STATEMENTS Mr. Bruce welcomed the public and thanked them for coming. He said the budget process started a few months ago with the department heads making their requests. The budgets are reviewed by the Township Manager and staff several times before being presented to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Bruce said a 7 percent real estate tax increase is being proposed and would generate approximately \$433,351 of revenue and cost the average homeowner and additional \$46 next year.. This would be the third tax increase in 10 years.

The township has scheduled three open hearings (October 22, October 29 and November 10) so that the Board of Commissioners and the public can review, debate and deliberate on the proposed budget.

PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL

Mr. Grube said that there is an increase of \$5,000 to service vehicles. These are for repairs that cannot be done in house.

CAPITAL

Mr. Grube said they are looking into fixing the Wilson Avenue concrete repair. Ms. Davis asked for a status on the repair of the Keystone Bridge. Mr. Grube replied that the repairs are not too costly and that once the bridge repaired in they may consider making the portion on Washington Street into a foot bridge.

No changes were made to this portion of the budget presented by Public Works.

PHYSICAL PLANT & INFORMATION SYSTEMS (PPIS)

GENERAL

Mr. Hunsberger explained that PPIS department is responsible for the care and maintenance of all the municipal buildings, computers and electronics. The department also runs the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority (BTMA).

Mr. Hunsberger said that wages proposed include the community center's day porter. Mr. Miranda explained that the \$30,000 budgeted for computer/technology includes software and licensing fees. He said computers must be upgraded every couple of years. There are 13 in-house servers which are rotated every 5 years.

SEWER FUND

After some discussion, Mr. Hunsberger stated that no sewer rate increase is proposed.

No changes were made to this portion of the budget presented by PPIS.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zapata
Recording Secretary