

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
BUDGET MEETING – February 6, 2024**

Mayor Mueller *calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

**PRESENT:** Mayor A. Mueller, Deputy Mayor V. Panico, Mr. J. Albanese, Mr. J Heller, Mr. J. Huelsebusch

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator R. Sheola, Municipal Clerk K. Parker

**ABSENT:** None

**2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

- **Land Use / Planning Board / Board of Adjustment**

Christina Schwartz, Director of Land Use and Development, gave a brief overview of the functions of the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. Ms. Schwartz reviewed the expenses within the line items for Land Use, Planning, and Board of Adjustment budgets, highlighting any needs for increased funding.

- **Housing / Social Services**

Christine Dey, Director of Social Services/Housing Coordinator, reviewed the services provided by the Housing and Social Services office and summarized the 2023 versus 2022-year end reports. Ms. Dey discussed her proposed budget and the request for a software system for a client tracking database.

- **Fire and Rescue Services**

Matt Hoffman, Chief of Readington Fire, spoke to the budget operating requests of the three fire companies, including an increase in funding for equipment, and personal protection equipment replacement. Mr. Hoffman also addressed the need for equipment maintenance and increased training costs, LOSAP increases, and elimination of billing for fuel for all fire companies and rescue squad.

Tim Apgar, Chief of Whitehouse Fire Company, presented his proposal for a Ladder 22 fire truck to replace an aging fire truck, and identified the request for a longer ladder truck to service the growing township needs. Chief Apgar also spoke to the timeline of purchasing the truck.

Jeff Herzog, Chief of Whitehouse Rescue, reviewed the capital request for an additional essential utility/responder vehicle to replace one of the three aging vehicles for the squad.

James Traynor, Chief of Three Bridges Fire Company, presented the request to refurbish one of the apparatuses in the fleet to extend the life of the fire engine and reviewed the overall cost. Chief Traynor explained that in previous years budget there were funds that were never expended which would be used towards this project.

In conclusion, Chief Hoffman spoke to the need for Scott Airpack replacements for the three fire companies, a forcible entry door to share for training exercises and battery powered fans for the Three Bridges Fire Company.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andrew Roth inquired about how the revenue from Verano would potentially be used

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made at 8:05 p.m. by Mr. Heller to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Panico with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted:

Karin M. Parker, *RMC*  
Municipal Clerk