



BETHEL TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
1092 BETHEL ROAD
GARNET VALLEY, PA 19060

Phone: (610) 459-1529
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Board of Supervisors

Chuck Dennie, P.E., Chairman
Stephanie DerOhannessian, MB, Vice-Chairwoman
Giovanna Iacono, P.E., MBA
Michael J. Davey, Esq.
Michael D'Agostino, Esq.

www.betheltwp.com

The Regular Meeting of the BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS was held on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, in the John L. Myers Building, 1092 Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, PA 19060.

BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
November 18th, 2025

PRESENT:

Chuck Dennie, P.E., Chairman-Zoom
Stephanie DerOhannessian, MB, Vice-Chairwoman
Giovanna Iacono, P.E., MBA, Supervisor
Michael D'Agostino, Esq., Supervisor

William Addison, Township Manager
Matthew Houtmann, P.E., Engineer
Peter Barsz, Treasurer
Michael Maddren, Esq., Solicitor
Ed Plasha, Tax Collector

ABSENT:

Michael Davey, Esq., Supervisor

OBSERVERS:

Approximately 50 citizens were in attendance.

The Regular November 18th, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting convened at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Dennie welcomed residents and called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Dennie requested everyone to please

silence all electronic equipment and announced the presence of a recording device for the purpose of minute-taking. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are approved at the following meeting. Chairman Dennie mentioned that the Township is livestreaming this meeting on its official YouTube channel. An executive session took place immediately prior to the meeting to discuss legal, real estate, and personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Supervisors' Meeting held on October 14th, 2025.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the regular meeting minutes of October 14th, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Opening of a public hearing on Ordinance No. 244 establishing a Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the opening of a public hearing on Ordinance No.244-Establishing a Volunteer Service Tax Credit.

Closure of a public hearing on Ordinance No. 244 establishing a Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, carried unanimously, the Board approved the closure of a public hearing on hearing on Ordinance No. 244.

Appendix I- Volunteer Service Tax Stenographer Minutes.

REPORTS:

TREASURER REPORT:

Peter Barsz, Township Treasurer, read the October 2025 Treasurer's Report. Details by fund are included within the report, which is on record at the Township building and is available for public inspection.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, pay bills and release all relevant escrows.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved the October 2025 Treasurer's Report and payment of all bills as presented.

FINANCE/AUDIT/TAXES:

Tax Collector Report: Chairman Dennie read the October 2025 Tax Collector's Report. A copy of the full Tax Collector's Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department: Chief McCarthy read the October 2025 Police Report. A full copy of the Police Report is available for public inspection at the Township building.

Vice-Chair DerOhannessian asked Chief McCarthy to explain the situation regarding the letters received by many township residents.

Chief McCarthy stated that the Bethel Township Police Department has turned the information regarding the letters over to the United States Postal Inspection Service for further investigation. He explained that anything placed in a mailbox must be stamped and processed by the USPS. The USPIS is conducting an investigation, and the findings will be reported back to the Bethel Township Police Department.

James McDaniel, 1415 Zebley Road, stated that his letter had been mailed and that the statement on the township website should have been signed. He added that he was glad to have received the letter.

Dave Tustin, 1159 Naamans Creek Road, commented on the letter that was placed in residents' mailboxes. He said that the Police Department should not be focused on this matter and that it seems like neighbors turning on neighbors.

Supervisor D'Agostino stated that he was unaware of the situation being discussed. He remarked that it feels as though freedom of speech in the country no longer exists. He stated that it was unacceptable for the website post to have been made without the Chair directing staff to do so. He added that no one is going to call the Police Department on a college student or landscapers for placing fliers in mailboxes.

Harry Smedley, 1153 Naamans Creek Road, asked whether the crimes the Police Department investigates occur solely in Bethel Township or if they extend into Concord Township. He also asked whether the Township receives back-pay from other municipalities for coverage. He shared his opinion regarding the letter placed in his mailbox.

Chief McCarthy responded that if the Pennsylvania State Police called Bethel for assistance, the Township would help, just as they would assist Bethel if needed help.

Erica Brignac, 1440 Naamans Creek Road, stated that regardless of the content of the envelopes, placing something in another person's mailbox is a federal crime. She noted that residents called the Police Department, and the matter is being looked into.

Leah Consiglio, 1006 Ryans Run, noted that this was the largest turnout she has seen in several months since she began attending meetings and serving as Junior Supervisor. She stated that many residents appear to place more trust in a letter left in their mailbox than in attending meetings to receive accurate information firsthand. She added that most residents were present tonight because others wanted them to be angry rather than informed about the facts.

Motion to approve the purchase of a Tactical Cop Box from Intercon Truck Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$3,274.78.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the purchase of a Tactical Cop Box from Intercon Truck Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$3,274.78.

Bethel Hose Co. #1: Deputy Chief, Brett Small, read the October 2025 Fire Report. A copy of the full Fire Department Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 244 establishing a Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor D'Agostino, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 244 establishing a Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-35 – Establishing Criteria for the Volunteer Service Tax Credit.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor D'Agostino, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board adopted Resolution 2025-35- Establishing Criteria for the Volunteer Service Tax Credit.

Emergency Medical Services: Supervisor Iacono read the October 2025 Emergency Medical Services Report. A copy of the full Emergency Medical Services Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Emergency Management Coordinator: Supervisor Iacono read the October 2025 Emergency Management Report. A copy of the full Emergency Management Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Highway Department: Supervisor Iacono read the October 2025 Highway Report. A copy of the full Highway Department Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Building/Grounds: Supervisor Iacono read the October 2025 Highway Report. A copy of the full Building and Grounds Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

BOARDS:

Parks and Recreation Board: Chairman Dennie read the October 2025 Parks and Rec Report. A copy of the full Parks and Rec Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Zoning Hearing Board: Vice-Chair DerOhannessian stated that there was no meeting in October, so there was no report provided.

Planning Commission: Supervisor Iacono read the October 2025 planning commission report. A copy of the full Planning Commission Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Supervisor Iacono stated that at the last Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Lincoln submitted his letter of resignation, as he will be moving to another township. Supervisor Iacono recognized George Lincoln for his many years of service to Bethel Township, noting that he has served for more than twenty years on both the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission.

Motion to approve Proclamation No. 2025-05 recognizing and honoring George Lincoln for his dedicated service and contributions to Bethel Township.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Iacono, seconded by Supervisor D'Agostino and carried unanimously, the Board adopted Proclamation No. 2025-05 recognizing and honoring George Lincoln for his dedicated service and contributions to Bethel Township.

Sewer Authority: Supervisor D'Agostino read the Sewer Authority Report. A copy of the full Sewer Authority Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

EDUCATION:

Garnet Valley School District: Vice-Chair DerOhannessian read the Garnet Valley School District report. A copy of the full Garnet Valley School District Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Rachel Kohl Library: Vice-Chair DerOhannessian read the Rachel Kohl Library report. A copy of the full Rachel Kohl Library Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

Motion to release the year-end Rachel Kohl Library true-up payment of \$1,271.14.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the Board approved the release of the year-end Rachel Kohl Library true-up payment of \$1,271.14.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

A copy of the full Manager's Report is available at the Township building for public inspection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Michael Maddren, Township Solicitor, provided a summary of the Ordinance. There was a discussion on the Ordinance amongst the Board as well as comments from the public. Mr. Maddren had made some updates to the Ordinance based on public and board feedback.

Harry Smedley, 1153 Naamans Creek Road, expressed his concerns regarding the Ordinance.

Nick Trizonis, 3216 Garnet Mine Road, expressed his frustration with the burn ordinance and stated that he does not intend to follow it.

John Hutchinson, 3199 Stillwood Lane, requested clarification on the exceptions to the burn ordinance.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 243 regulating open burning.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board adopted ordinance No. 243 regulating open burning.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to authorize Environmental Management & Consulting to prepare a wetland delineation letter for the Shaffer Preserve in an amount not to exceed \$750.00.

Public Comment:

John Hutchinson, 3199 Stillwood Lane, expressed his concerns regarding the expense for Shaffer Preserve and stated that he is against the park.

Dorina McHale, 2112 Shadyside Lane, stated that her letter was mailed and expressed concerns about taxes increasing and the Shaffer Preserve project. She strongly encouraged the Board to stop spending money on this project.

James McDaniel, 1415 Zebley Road, stated that a brick house with a white garage exists on the property and noted that he performed work for Dr. Shaffer multiple times. He said that Shaffer Preserve cannot be developed and that residents are now paying for the property in their taxes.

Dave Tustin, 1159 Naamans Creek Road, expressed concerns with the budget and suggested areas where the Township could save money. He recommended exploring additional income sources and stated that Shaffer Preserve could be developed in phases as funds become available.

Dianne Smith, 1602 Wendy Way, suggested the Township send out a newsletter. She noted her letter was postmarked and expressed concerns regarding the budget, Shaffer Preserve, and the upcoming 2027 tax increase. She stated that Shaffer Preserve should remain as simple as possible.

Joe Thurslic, 1641 Village Ave, expressed concerns and frustrations with the budget. He stated that he prepared graphs and charts to project the numbers and requested that projections for 2027 and 2028 be included.

Jerry McMullan, 1607 Nicole Drive, stated that he attended the meeting due to the letter that was sent out. He expressed concerns about Shaffer Preserve and stated that the park is unnecessary.

John Nevy, 3213 Sarum Farm Lane, stated that he initially supported the Preserve when he purchased his home but does not support a large development on the property. He said that the Township should prioritize maintaining existing parks before investing in new property.

Kathleen Layton, 3707 Pimlico Place, requested that the budget spreadsheet be uploaded to the Township website to prevent residents from repeatedly requesting the document.

Ed Deisher, 1108 Old Post Circle, expressed concerns regarding the budget and emphasized the importance of transparency. He encouraged residents to attend more meetings and urged the Board to adopt a balanced budget. He also asked when survey information would be available.

Donna Vance, 1612 Wendy Way, expressed concerns about Shaffer Preserve, including Goodley Road access, and referenced the Board survey. She vocally expressed opposition to the park.

Trish Zeits, 1670 Wisteria Way, stated that the community should actively demonstrate opposition to the project. She expressed concern that she felt that budget-related questions are not being answered.

Supervisor D'Agostino stated that moving forward with the current motion would include proceeding with the bridge at Shaffer Preserve.

Erica Brignac, 1440 Naamans Creek Road, noted that public comment does not require Board responses. She stated that the Board has tried to accommodate residents' needs

for Shaffer Preserve, emphasizing accessibility for individuals using wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers.

James McDaniel, 1415 Zebley Road, expressed concerns about the previous survey and stated that taxes in Bethel Township are expected to increase significantly.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor Iacono, Supervisor D'Agostino opposed, the Board approved Environmental Management & Consulting to prepare a wetland delineation letter for the Shaffer Preserve in an amount not to exceed \$750.00 on a 3-1 vote.

Motion to authorize the submission of permit fees, not to exceed \$1,650.00, for the NPDES and Highway Occupancy Permits for the Shaffer Preserve.

Public Comment:

Dave Tustin, 1159 Naamans Creek Road, expressed concern regarding the approval of permits, occupancy, and the wetland letter. He stated that such approvals should be addressed at the Chester Valley Engineers meeting on Thursday, rather than at tonight's meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor Iacono, Supervisor D'Agostino opposed, the Board authorized the submission of permit fees, not to exceed \$1,650.00, for the NPDES and Highway Occupancy Permits for the Shaffer Preserve on a 3-1 vote.

Motion to approve a one-year service agreement with Advanced Electrical Services Group, Inc. for generator maintenance, at a cost not to exceed \$695.00, subject to Solicitor review.

Motion: On a motion by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, seconded by Chairman Dennie and carried unanimously, the Board approved a one-year service agreement with Advanced Electrical Services Group, Inc. for generator maintenance, at a cost not to exceed \$695.00, subject to Solicitor review.

Supervisor Iacono stated that the Township has been informed that a new generator will be needed soon and recommended putting the project out to bid in order to stay on top of costs.

Resolution 2025-36 – Authorization to Apply for the 2025 PECO Green Region Open Space Program Grant for the Shaffer Preserve Project.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Iacono, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian, Supervisor D'Agostino opposed, the Board adopted Resolution 2025-36 – Authorization to Apply for the 2025 PECO Green Region Open Space Program Grant for the Shaffer Preserve Project on a 3-1 vote.

Supervisor D'Agostino requested clarification on the total amount of the grant and how much funding the Township will be contributing.

Motion to approve payment of \$6,750.00 to MOR Brothers for completed curb repair and asphalt work at 7 Creekview.

Motion: On a motion by Supervisor Iacono, seconded by Vice-Chair DerOhannessian and carried unanimously, the Board approved payment of \$6,750.00 to MOR Brothers for completed curb repair and asphalt work at 7 Creekview.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Board of Supervisors will convene a special meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Myers Building to receive a presentation from Chester Valley Engineers regarding the Shaffer Preserve.

On Monday, December 8, 2025, the Township will hold its Fall Yard Waste Collection.

The Board will receive a presentation on the proposed Pyle's Walk Development, formerly known as "Independence Towns," on Thursday December 11th, 2025, at 6:30PM.

Supervisor D'Agostino stated that he wanted to congratulate the BYC 9u Football team who won the championship this past weekend. They were undefeated all season.

Community Comment:

Dave Tustin, 1159 Naamans Creek Road, asked a question about Independence Townsend stated he will be at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Chairman Dennie, seconded by Supervisor Iacono and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Crowley

Appendix I - Stenographer Minutes for the
Public Hearing on Ordinance No.244 Fire Tax
Credit

BEFORE THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHEL
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- - -

IN RE: Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 244
Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program

- - -

Public hearing in the above matter held
pursuant to notice on Tuesday, November 18, 2025,
at the Bethel Township Municipal Building, 1082
Bethel Road, Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania,
commencing at 6:30 p.m., before Norma Gerrity,
Professional Court Reporter.

- - -

BEFORE: CHUCK DENNIE, P.E., Chairman (Zoom)
STEPHANIE DER OHANNESSIAN, Vice Chair
MICHAEL D'AGOSTINO, ESQ., Supervisor
GIOVANNA IACONO, PE, MBA, Supervisor

MICHAEL MADDREN, ESQ. Solicitor

ALSO PRESENT: WILLIAM ADDISON, Township
Manager
MATTHEW HOUTMANN, Township
Engineer

- - -

NORMA GERRITY
Professional Court Reporter
14 Fetters Boulevard
Downingtown, PA 19335
(610) 246-2362

I N D E X

<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Harry Smedley	8
Bob Lyons	9

1 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, everyone. I
2 have 6:30 on my computer. Will you join me
3 for the Pledge of Allegiance?

4 - - -

5 (Pledge of Allegiance)

6 - - -

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to
8 announce that there is a recording device
9 at the dais for the purposes of taking
10 meeting minutes, and we are streaming live
11 and having a recording on our YouTube
12 channel.

13 - - -

14 (The board turned its attention to
15 matters off the record and resumed as
16 follows:)

17 - - -

18 THE CHAIRMAN: On to public hearings.
19 Mr. D'Agostino, this may be in your court.

20 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Yes. So I'm going to
21 do a brief review and our solicitor will
22 get into more of the legalese.

23 MS. IACONO: Do you want to open the
24 public hearing first before we do that?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure. I'd like to make
2 a motion to open a public hearing on
3 Ordinance 244 for the Volunteer Service Tax
4 Credit Program.

5 MS. IACONO: I'll second that motion.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and
7 seconded. All in favor?

8 - - -

9 (The Board unanimously responds aye.)

10 - - -

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion carried.

12 Please continue, Mr. D'Agostino.

13 MR. D'AGOSTINO: So a number of years
14 ago, the Pennsylvania state legislators
15 general assembly passed a law that allowed
16 county and local municipalities to pass an
17 ordinance that would give firefighters,
18 mostly firefighters, wouldn't have to pay
19 their local tax.

20 The purpose behind it is volunteer
21 firefighters, unfortunately, people are
22 busy. They don't have the time.

23 So this is one of the enabling acts
24 the general assembly gave local

1 municipalities and counties to encourage
2 volunteerism.

3 Unfortunately, not many municipalities
4 or counties have done it in Pennsylvania.
5 The only one that I'm aware of is Chester
6 County.

7 So with the tax burdens in our county
8 and our municipalities increasing, a year
9 or so ago I first brought this topic, I
10 know Chuck, when he was liaison for fire,
11 he moved it forward, then I became liaison
12 for fire, and today we're going to
13 hopefully pass it.

14 So there's certain criteria based on
15 volunteerism, and just so everybody knows,
16 you don't have to fight fires to be a
17 volunteer. Okay?

18 There is back office work that needs
19 to be done. There's fundraising stuff that
20 needs to be done.

21 So I encourage people who may feel
22 they're not the right age or not physically
23 able to fight fires, there's plenty of work
24 that the fire department needs help that

1 you can do without fighting fires. So this
2 is also a public service announcement for
3 that.

4 So basically, if you meet a certain
5 criteria, that is, you're putting a number
6 of hours as a volunteer in a year, your
7 Bethel Township taxes you will not have to
8 pay. Only Bethel Township, that's all we
9 can control is Bethel Township.

10 We hope to expand and invite other
11 communities to join us because not all of
12 our volunteer firefighters live in Bethel
13 Township.

14 So we hope to do agreements with
15 surrounding municipalities that will do the
16 same for maybe Bethel firefighters who live
17 in Aston or Chichester.

18 So I'll hand it over to our solicitor
19 to talk more of the legal stuff.

20 MR. MADDREN: So I think Supervisor
21 D'Agostino did a nice job summarizing. A
22 couple nuances to it. One is that the
23 reciprocity could apply the other way, too;
24 right?

1 So if you are an Aston firefighter who
2 lives in Bethel, if we were able to come to
3 those reciprocity agreements, they would
4 get this credit without an agreement from
5 the neighboring municipality.

6 It's only firefighters in Bethel will
7 get the credit in Bethel.

8 It's also technically available for
9 volunteers of a nonprofit EMS entity, and
10 we have a nonprofit EMS entity operating in
11 town, but they're not volunteer based.
12 They're paid, employee based.

13 The only other nuance is technically
14 they have to pay the tax and then there's a
15 credit back.

16 So they pay the tax. We work with the
17 fire department to see who on the roster
18 met the volunteer criteria, and then those
19 people would be able to apply for a credit
20 back.

21 What you'll see as we go through the
22 agenda is this is just a public hearing on
23 this item.

24 Once we close the public hearing, the

1 board will move through its business, and
2 then we get to the new business section of
3 the agenda.

4 There is this ordinance that we're
5 discussing now, and there is also a
6 resolution that establishes the criteria
7 for the firefighters, and this is something
8 that was developed in conjunction with
9 Bethel Hose Company.

10 That can be fluid. This is our first
11 time doing it, so we did those criteria by
12 resolution so that if we learn something,
13 we have the opportunity to edit it.

14 Mr. Chairman, I think that's all I
15 have by way of introduction. It would be
16 appropriate for you to call for any public
17 comment on this ordinance.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Maddren.
19 Yes, please, we'd like to now open this to
20 the public for comment.

21 MR. SMEDLEY: Yes, I have a question.
22 Harry Smedley, S-M-E-D-L-E-Y.

23 So, Mike, is this restricted solely to
24 firefighters, and who else can receive this

1 tax credit, and what would they be
2 volunteering for aside from firefighting?

3 MR. D'AGOSTINO: So you would need to
4 be a volunteer of Bethel Hose Company
5 Number 1.

6 MR. SMEDLEY: Okay. So it's
7 restricted solely to the hose company?

8 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Yes.

9 MR. SMEDLEY: That's awesome. We need
10 volunteers.

11 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Yes.

12 MR. SMEDLEY: That's my question.

13 MR. D'AGOSTINO: For not necessarily
14 fires, volunteers for the fire company. So
15 if you can help with fundraising or
16 accounting, all that stuff, that would
17 help.

18 MR. SMEDLEY: That's awesome.

19 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Yes.

20 MR. LYONS: Bob Lyons, L-Y-O-N-S, 3726
21 Mayfield Lane. You said there's criteria
22 for it?

23 What is the criteria, and then how do
24 we track that criteria?

1 MR. MADDREN: So it's the fire company
2 is tracked. I can handle that second part.

3 So basically each year, the chief of
4 the fire company would certify who meets
5 the criteria and provide that to the
6 township by March 1st.

7 MR. D'AGOSTINO: I'll give you some of
8 the items. So emergency calls, department
9 training, certification, attending company
10 meetings, fire prevention, public
11 relations, firehouse hours, line officer,
12 table officer, committee chair, committee
13 member, fundraising, longevity.

14 These are some of the items that they
15 will track and give points for.

16 MR. LYONS: Right. So like there's
17 hours?

18 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Yes.

19 MR. LYONS: How many hours do you get,
20 need --

21 MR. D'AGOSTINO: So you need a hundred
22 credit points, and each of these items has
23 a credit assigned to it.

24 MR. LYONS: Is that an hour?

1 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Yes.

2 MR. MADDREN: They're weighted.

3 MR. D'AGOSTINO: So if you're an
4 officer, obviously, you're spending more
5 time, there's more points for being an
6 officer.

7 Emergency calls, there's points for
8 that. So that's a criteria that the
9 department will track.

10 MR. LYONS: Could you estimate, like
11 how many people are eligible for this?

12 Have you estimated what the cost would
13 be to the township if you're giving that
14 credit back?

15 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Well, like I said,
16 this is the first year we're doing it.

17 So until we get through this first
18 year, that's going to be the trial period
19 we actually see how many people are
20 eligible and doing it.

21 MR. MADDREN: So this is the first
22 year that the fire department will be
23 tracking the criteria. The criteria will
24 be established during the year.

1 So I don't think we have -- I don't
2 know if anybody from the fire department is
3 here.

4 Brett, do you have an estimate of the
5 number of people who are getting qualified
6 for this?

7 MR. SMALL: I do not right offhand.
8 We're working on that. The administration
9 office is taking care of all those numbers.

10 MR. MADDREN: How many members do you
11 have?

12 MR. SMALL: As far as fully active,
13 about 20, and then we have probably 10 to
14 15 social members, plus your
15 administration, fundraising, like that kind
16 of stuff.

17 But they don't ride the fire trucks
18 and all that stuff.

19 MR. LYONS: But other people beyond
20 that would be eligible potentially?

21 MR. SMALL: Correct. If all you
22 wanted to do was fundraising, if you take
23 care of fundraising and make your meetings,
24 like our company meetings we have once a

1 month, like they say, you'll have points,
2 and once you make the criteria, then you're
3 good for the reimbursement.

4 MR. LYONS: So are you going through a
5 trial period to find out how many people
6 will be eligible to achieve that and then
7 find out what the impact is to the budget
8 as a result of those tax credits?

9 MR. D'AGOSTINO: No. This is the
10 first year we're going to enact this
11 ordinance. Okay?

12 The idea of the general assembly act
13 that we have is, and the department has
14 verified, that it is very hard to get
15 people to come and volunteer to fight
16 fires.

17 So the amount of money, which we don't
18 believe is going to be excessive, because
19 there's probably only a handful that live
20 in Bethel; correct?

21 MR. SMALL: Correct.

22 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Is worth the value to
23 be able to protect our citizens.

24 MR. LYONS: You said you didn't know

1 what the impact would be.

2 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Correct. This is the
3 first year we're doing it.

4 MR. MADDREN: I mean, we know that
5 it's probably limited; right? There's 35
6 members. Most of them don't --

7 MR. SMALL: I have six to ten members
8 that actually live in Bethel.

9 MR. MADDREN: Even if it was, say, a
10 thousand bucks, just to put a round number
11 on it, a paid firefighter would cost us,
12 what, about 150,000 between benefits and
13 salary and those sorts of things.

14 MR. LYONS: Why would you implement
15 something if you don't know what the impact
16 is going to be?

17 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Well, we know it's
18 within a small ballpark, and if we don't
19 implement it, then we have to be proactive
20 trying to get more people to volunteer.

21 MR. LYONS: What do we think the
22 ballpark is?

23 MR. D'AGOSTINO: Probably between six
24 to ten Bethel residents. It doesn't mean

1 they're all going to qualify.

2 So until we go through that process,
3 this has never been tracked before.

4 MR. MADDREN: Ed Plasha, do you know
5 our average tax per household?

6 MR. PLASHA: Yeah. I would estimate
7 for our purposes about \$500 average tax
8 bill.

9 MR. MADDREN: I'm sorry. Can you
10 state your name and your position with the
11 township?

12 MR. PLASHA: Ed Plasha, P-L-A-S-H-A,
13 tax collector. Let's say \$500 average tax
14 bill. If there were 20 firefighters, it
15 would be about \$10,000.

16 Over \$1.5 million, it would be less
17 than a one percent, almost a half a percent
18 increase on overall taxes.

19 So I would say it's not a material
20 number to start.

21 MR. D'AGOSTINO: And if we were unable
22 to provide volunteer service and had to
23 move to a paid service model, which would
24 be cost prohibitive at this point for a

1 small town.

2 MR. LYONS: So you're talking about a
3 tax increase.

4 MR. D'AGOSTINO: There's no tax
5 increase, no.

6 MR. LYONS: That's what I thought I
7 heard the gentleman say.

8 MR. D'AGOSTINO: No. I don't think
9 Mr. Plasha said there would be a tax
10 increase.

11 MR. PLASHA: No, I didn't say a tax
12 increase. It would be an immaterial
13 relevance to the overall budget of \$10,000
14 on a \$1.5 million budget.

15 MR. D'AGOSTINO: And that's a max.

16 MS. DER OHANNESSIAN: Any other public
17 comments?

18 MR. MADDREN: Hearing none, I think it
19 would be appropriate to close the hearing,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I'd like to make
22 a motion to close the public hearing on
23 Ordinance Number 244.

24 MS. OHANNESSIAN: Second.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made and
2 seconded. All those in favor?

3 - - -

4 (The Board unanimously responds aye.)

5 - - -

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion carried. The
7 public hearing is closed.

8 - - -

9 (Proceedings concluded at 6:45 p.m.)

10 - - -

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Norma Gerrity, a Professional Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing record is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes in the above-captioned matter.

Norma Gerrity
Professional Court Reporter

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