

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Act 172 DISCUSSION MINUTES
December 13, 2017**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors Act 172 Discussion Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacob Meyer at 7:06 p.m. in the Bethel Township Conference Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the meeting were Mike Graby and Jake Meyer, Supervisors. Also in attendance were Lee Groff, Les Kegerreis, Nelson Martin, Randy Behney and Township Sec. Treas. Jayne Seifrit.

Act 172 Discussion

Jake Meyer stated the number one priority is safety for the township and its residents. Jake Meyer stated he can see the importance of retaining and recruiting members for emergency responses. Randy Behney stated the first question is whether or not the Township is planning on implementing. Lee Groff provided a sheet they used when they received a grant for paying members for volunteer activities. From his experience in documenting for the grant they received it was time consuming. Nelson Martin stated their volunteers come from many areas. He thought only about 30% are residents of Bethel Township. It was reiterated that the municipalities around Bethel Township are not entertaining or implementing this program at this time. It was stated if it is done there would need to be a combination of EIT and Real Estate relief offered. An individual can only select one option. The EIT would be a capped amount but would only receive capped amount if what they have paid in would be greater. Jayne shared the median income for Bethel Township according to the 2010 census is \$47,015.00. So the amount to Bethel Township is just over \$235.00. The law stated the Real Estate would be capped at 20%, so if a property assessment would be \$100,000.00 the tax paid currently would be \$200.00 so 20% of that is \$40.00. It would adjust for assessment and tax millage in any given year. Again it was stated the tracking of the activities that qualify, the dollars the township would not receive and the cost associated with implementing the program may not be worth the incentive. It was discussed if anyone in Berks County was doing this. They could take a wait and see how it went by the municipalities that did implement.

Mike Graby made a motion to hold off for a year, seconded by Jake Meyer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Adjourned about 7:45 after Mike Graby motioned and Jake Meyer seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit