

THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 19, 2022

The 2023 Final Budget for the Borough of Bell Acres has been adopted with estimated receipts of \$2,156,261.00, carryover of \$61,074.60 and expenditures of \$2,217,335.60. This balanced budget is based on a property tax levy on real property of 4.32 mills just like last year, a new fire tax on real property of 0.5 mills, the continuation of other taxes at current rates and anticipated Liquid Fuels Receipts plus other fees.

A Senior Citizens Tax Relief Program was enacted by the Borough of Bell Acres for eligible taxpayers. To be eligible to participate in the property tax rebate program, participants must meet certain conditions to receive a discount of the Borough real estate property taxes. Those conditions are listed in Ordinance No. 317 of the Borough of Bell Acres. Additional property tax relief programs are available through Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (see additional information below).

Prudent management of the budget will continue to fulfill our obligations to the Borough's residents. In confronting budgetary challenges, the fire tax has been enacted to preserve the financial stability of the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Department, while maintaining public safety that residents expect from our fire department services. This additional support will assist the fire department's recent purchase of a new 2022 Spartan Pumper Fire Engine in the amount of \$499,770, mandatory safety equipment, and the future purchase of SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus). The increased demand and financial commitment to the fire department was no longer sustainable through the Borough's General Fund and the addition of this dedicated funding stream will provide our volunteer firefighters with the necessary equipment to continue keeping our residents safe.

The Borough continues to provide quality services to residents while strategically managing fluctuating revenues and additional expenses due to the record high rate of inflation. The Borough is unique in that it still maintains and services concrete roads; therefore, must address the increased costs to repair and replace those roads and curbs. As part of the Borough's 15-Year Road Improvement Plan, the proposed project in 2023 is to remove the concrete curbs on Grouse Lane and replace the curbs and overlay the roadway with asphalt.

As part of the Borough Park Improvement Plan, the Borough was awarded two grants in 2023: a DCNR Grant in the amount of \$110,000 and a CDBG Grant in the amount of \$20,000. These awards will go toward Phase I of the park improvements to service ADA parking and walkways, a new park pavilion, and new fencing.

The Borough's highest priority is to provide exceptional public service to our residents. The Borough's budget addresses our citizens' fundamental needs while preserving the important financial reforms that will sustain the integrity of our Borough.

Lisa J. Fleming, Borough Manager

Additional Property Tax Relief Programs:

Allegheny County

Act 77, Senior Citizen Tax Relief

<https://alleghenycountytreasurer.us/real-estate-tax/real-estate-tax-2/>

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

<https://www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx>