

BESSEMER TOWNSHIP  
GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VISION

One of the goals of the Bessemer Township Board and the elected officials that represent the people of Bessemer Township is to provide the Township and the individual people with opportunities for a sustainable life style and possible improvements as mentioned in the “Bill of Rights” the “inalienable right to Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness”. As it is known, this generally requires funding. While tax funding and user fees provides a substantial portion of this funding, its recognized that another source funding opportunities is provided in the form of grants. Bessemer Township has in the past, utilized grants for water and sewer utility and park improvements. And yet, we understand there are opportunities and resources that are not being pursued. The elected officials have limited time and are focused on the day to day, year to year operations of the Township. In an effort to take advantage of these missed opportunities, the Township Board desires to establish an advisory group of concerned, dedicated, community minded individuals, that would search out potential opportunities and advise the Township Board for further consideration.

MISSION

The Bessemer Township Grant Advisory Committee is to seek out, evaluate, and make recommendations to the Bessemer Township Board concerning favorable grant funding opportunities that would be of benefit to the people of Bessemer Township.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: Establishment

The Grant Advisory Committee shall be established by resolution of the Bessemer township Board. The committee may be dissolved by resolution of the Bessemer Township Board should the Committee become ineffective, abusive of authority or unnecessary.

ARTICLE II: Authority

Section 1; Search

The Grant Advisory Committee is authorized to seek, review and evaluate grant funding opportunities from any legally established source including, but not limited to, Federal and State Grants, Charity and Foundation groups, and Cooperate sources.

## Section 2; Evaluate

The Grant Advisory Committee is authorized to evaluate grant opportunities by considering the benefit to the Township and people which shall include, but not limited to;

- A. Actual benefit to the people by considering how necessary is the benefit and who will/how many will benefit from the funding.
- B. Financial benefit by considering the amount of the grant, the percentage of the grant amount verses the total project amount, pre grant payout cost, cost of administration and any extended financial liability to the Township.
- C. Requirements, Conditions and Terms of the grant looking for issues that would increase difficulties in benefitting from the grant.
- D. Evaluate positive/negative short/long term consequences required of the grant.
- E. Consider and evaluate other information as may be requested by the Township Board.

## Section 3; Recommendation

Recommendation for grant opportunities deemed viable by the Committee, shall be made to the Township Board as an agenda item to be presented at a scheduled Board Meeting in a format that presents the information gathered and considered as outlined in Section 2. The submission of a recommendation does not obligate or require the Township Board to enter into the recommended grant.

## Section 4; Other Assigned Authority

When the Township Board considers it beneficial, the Township Board may authorize the Committee to assist in following, but not limited to; writing/applying for the grant, help in administration of the grant as authorized by carried motion of the Township Board.

## ARTICLE III: Limited Authority

The Grant Advisory Committee's authority is limited to advisory and support capacity. Absolutely no authority is conveyed to the Committee, or its members, to enter into the following, but not limited to, any verbal or written agreement, contract or program that would place Bessemer Township in any situation that would bind, obligate or make liable the Township of any financial or legal obligation. The Bessemer Township Board retains sole authority to authorize any commitment to any grant or other types of commitment.

## ARTICLE IV: Committee Membership

The Grant Advisory Committee shall consist of no less than five (5) members and no greater than eleven (11) members. Appointed members shall be electors of Bessemer Township. Efforts should be made to appoint persons from a diverse area of expertise and experiences. Term of membership is for three (3) years and may be reappointed for consecutive terms. New appointees shall take the oath of office.

Members may be nominated by any of the Trustees of the Bessemer Township Board and shall be appointed by the Bessemer Township Board. In addition to the appointed members, the Committee may include other persons with special interests and expertise to aide in the grant advisory process.

#### ARTICLE V: By-Laws

The Grant Advisory Committee shall establish a set of By-Laws, to be approved by the Bessemer Township Board, that shall include, but not limited to the following;

A Selection of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Recording Secretary.

B Meeting date, time, and location.

C Minutes of meeting to include date, time, location, attendance, potential grants discussed, vote of recommendations. Copies of minutes to be filed with the Bessemer Township Clerk.

#### ARTICLE VI: Conduct and Conflict of Interest

The Grant Advisory Committee may be subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and therefore should conduct meetings accordingly. Likewise, the committee members will be subject to any Conflict-of-Interest policies or Ordinances of Bessemer Township.