

STOCKERTOWN NEWS

www.stockertown.org



THANK YOU

Connie
Marakovits
for your many
years of service
as Borough Tax
Collector.

We wish you
well.

Connie has
recently retired
and residents
will no longer
pay their real
estate taxes to
Connie. Please
check your tax
bill for the
proper mailing
address.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

By a vote of 5 yeas to 2 nays, the Stockertown Borough General Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets for 2015 were adopted. The anticipated expenditures are displayed on page two. They reflect the continuing effort of Borough Council to provide quality services to our residents as prudently as possible.

After eight years of no tax increases, the taxation rate was raised 2 mills from 11.5 mills to 13.5 mills. The increase was a direct result of the re-assessment of several land parcels within the Borough, one of which was a large industrial track. By lowering the

assessed land value, the Borough lost nearly \$42,000 or 1/12th of its real estate tax income for 2015. The Borough is also being asked to repay the difference from the old tax rate for the years 2013 and 2014 or approximately \$79,000 in conjunction with the large land parcel. The tax repayment issue is still in negotiation.

The sewer rate will remain at \$50 per month per EDU. The fee for Fire Protection provided by Forks Fire also remains the same as was set in the initial contract of 2007, at \$15,000 per year.

In addition to the police  page 4

ANOTHER BUST...

Two males have been identified and charged in connection with a string of robberies in the Long's Development area between July and August. Court documents say residents living on Hope, Faith, and Jubilee Drive reported the lose of electronic navigation systems, a laptop, gift cards and cash totaling

more than \$1,700 taken from vehicles. A Borough Police Officer was able to lift a fingerprint from one of the vehicles that was broken into, and eventually match that print to an 18 year old from Bethlehem Township. Charges on the second individual were filed in Juvenile Court.

GREAT POLICE WORK !!!!

DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
Charles Davis

BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meets 1st & 3rd
Mondays at 7:30 PM
209 Main Street
Amy Richard, President
Kathleen Zdonowski,
Vice President
Cindy Hower
Rosemarie Wenzelberger
A. Joseph Gosnell
Robin Davis
Carl Zito

BOROUGH OFFICE
610 759-8393
Anita Caughy
Chris Burmood

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
Gary N. Asteak

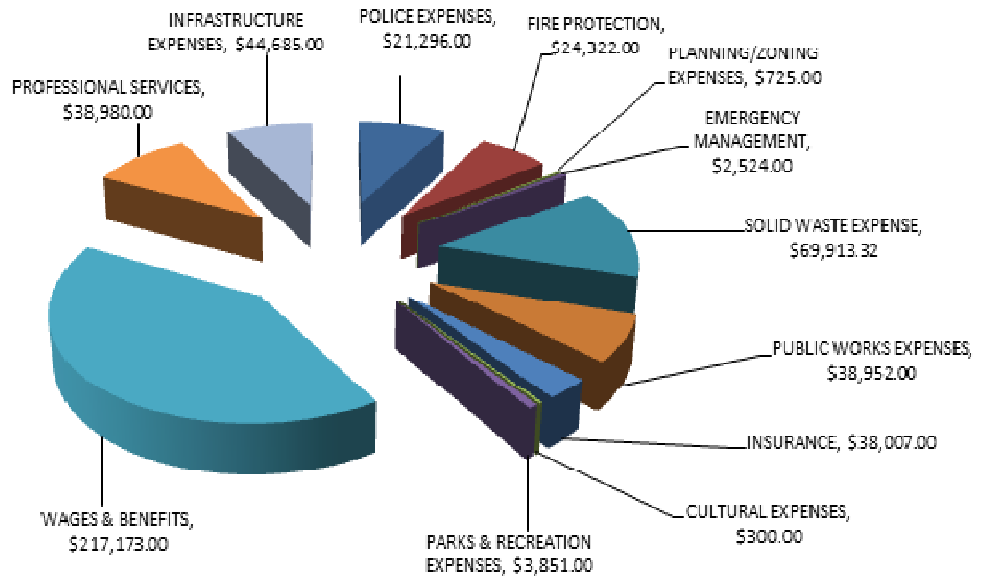
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
Karl Hennings
David Werkheiser
Todd Lichtenwalner
Wade Robinson

**ZONING OFFICER/
BUILDING INSPECTOR**
John Soloe

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**
Meets Monthly
As Needed
3rd Thursday 7:30 PM
Sean Dooley, Chairman
Kathleen Zdonowski
A. Joseph Gosnell
Joel Zingone

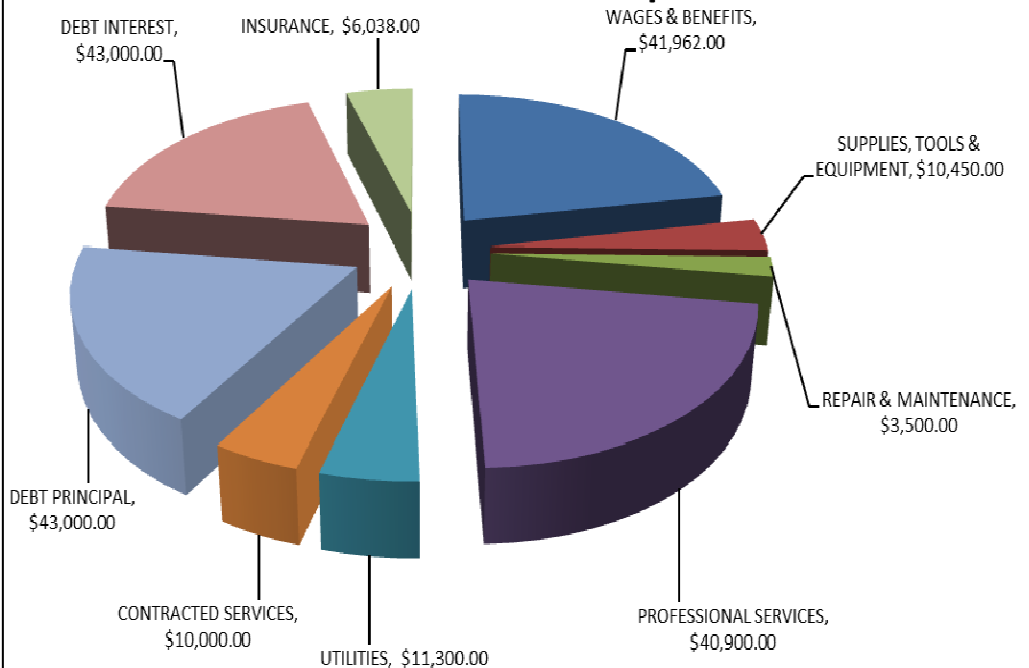
**ZONING HEARING
BOARD** As Needed
Kim Malavolta
Luccienne Dooley
Morgan Schafer

2015 General Fund Expenses



THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET BALANCES AT \$536,506. THE ANTICIPATED COMBINED GENERAL FUND INCOME FROM REAL ESTATE, EIT, AND LST TAXES, RENT, FINES AND FRANCHISE FEES IS APROXIMATELY \$526,636.

2015 Sewer Fund Expenses



THE SEWER FUND BUDGET BALANCES AT \$210,150. THE ANTICIPATED INCOME FROM SEWER USAGE REVENUES AND FINES IS APROXIMATELY \$210,150.

Footnotes from the Borough

- During a **SNOW EMERGENCY all vehicles must be removed from the street.** The snow emergency will be announced on your local radio and TV stations, WFMZ, B104, and 69 NEWS. Vehicles will be towed.
- It is unlawful to push or shovel snow from your property onto a public street in the Borough. Please refrain or you will be cited.
- If you live in Long's Development or park your cars on public roadways, please remove them before a storm so plows can clean the entire street and avoid vehicle damage.
- Those parking on State Street, please park in the adjacent lot so plows can clean the entire street, without plowing in your vehicles.
- It would be helpful for residents to place reflectors along their property edge for those along Dogwood Lane, Old Easton Road, Lincoln Avenue and streets without curbs.
- Remember, you have 24 hours in which to clear your sidewalks after a snowfall. **Adopt a fire hydrant.** If you live near a hydrant, please take five extra minutes and shovel around it. It could save precious time for firemen.
- For clarification: People have asked why we don't sell advertisements or accept personal notices and acknowledgements in the "Stockertown News" publication. The Stockertown News is printed in house with the sole purpose of relating information relevant to the activities of Borough Council to the residents of Stockertown. The vast majority of our residents do not attend council meetings. The newsletter is designed to bring a summary of the important issues before Council, to you.
- Landlord Notice: You are required to report new tenant information within ten days of tenant moving activity. Tenants are required to obtain a permit to move into, and out of the Borough. The fee is \$5.00 per household per move. This provides the Borough with an accurate listing of all residents for 911 and emergency purposes as well as sewer and water related issues. Both landlords and tenants must comply.
- For those seeking library access, Easton Public Library and Mary Meuser Library will provide library cards to the residents of Stockertown. The Borough will reimburse residents when a receipt is provided to the Borough Secretary.
- Thank you for your ongoing care of our Waste Water Treatment Plant by monitoring what you put down your "pipes" especially such items, as grease, feminine products, and rags. Help us maintain this fragile system.
- The recycling center is for Stockertown residents only. Please do not encourage friends and relatives to dump off their recyclables.
- Borough residents with special needs, please contact the Borough Office so we can add you to our Emergency Response List.
- Please have identification tags on your pets, (cats and dogs), and make every effort to contain them as well as protect from the harsh winter weather.



The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy. MLK



"The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work." Cicero-55 BC
So what have we learned in 2 millennia?

EMERGENCY SERVICES

STOCKERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NON-EMERGENCY
610 330-2200
610 759-3232, Office
John Soloe, Chief
Joseph Straka
Joseph Vrabel
Eric Schwab
Miroslav Djindjiev
Keith Snyder
Amal Brown
Alex Soloe
Adam Shimer

911

FORKS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

NON-EMERGENCY
610 330-2200
Bryan Weis,
Fire Chief
Timothy Weis,
Fire Marshall

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Alex Soloe

D.E.P. 610 861-2070
Department of Environmental Protection

POST OFFICE
Postmaster
610 759-6278

S.Y.A.
Info 610 759-4067

STOCKERTOWN ROD AND GUN CLUB
Info & Memberships
610 759-9255

vehicle and dump truck, an air conditioning unit was purchased for the Police Department. The heating and cooling unit was replaced in the Municipal Building and gas fired automatic back-up generators were added to both the Municipal Building and the Emergency Services Facility.

The WWTP is performing well except for the winter ammonia issue. After years of pilot projects and thousands of dollars attempting to eliminate the winter ammonia, the result is the same. In the colder months the ammonia levels rise above the accepted discharge limits. That being said, the DEP has permitted the plant's continuing operation with the condition that by the year 2019 the Borough must construct a new WWTP facility that will meet DEP's discharge regulations. Obviously the Borough of Stockertown has no suitable location to build a new chemical sludge plant, nor does the Borough have the resources to construct such a facility. Furthermore, if there were available grants for the construction of such a facility, the Borough does not have the resources to fund its operation, as it functions much differently than the current biological plant. The Borough was left with no recourse but to appeal the Permit Decision. Unfortunately, this could be a long and expensive journey, if the DEP fails to acknowledge the obvious.

Looking beyond that issue, the UV system at the WWTP will need an upgrade within the next year as it is now nearly twenty years old. Rough estimates for that project are between \$30,000 and \$45,000.

Grants or other funding sources are being sought for the much needed repairs of La Fevre Road and Commerce Way.

Finally, we are looking forward to the imminent opening of the Tatamy interchange with hope of traffic relief on Main Street!!!

One more issue....We incurred a sewer line back-up last month on Old Easton Road and Main Street which required a jet truck to clear the clogged pipe. The incident cost the Borough more than \$4,300 plus damage to residential property. **The cause of the back-up, a wad of material resembling a towel.**

Every time I write this newsletter, I repeat and repeat my pleas not to use the sewer system as a garbage disposal; only allow waste water from sinks and bathrooms to enter the system.....this is why. One towel or one diaper or rag = one jetter truck port to port, PW overtime, JMT Environmentalist on site for 5 hours, a DEP "spill violation" (which we surely don't need), and damage and extensive inconvenience to several residents affected by the back-up. As your Council President, I urge you again, please let the system do its job, unencumbered by foreign objects. Amy Richard

CodeRED, (ENC) is a high speed notification system which can deliver messages in seconds to the entire Borough or targeted areas for Amber Alerts, road closures and extreme weather. Messages are delivered via phone, cell phone, email and text. The system is only as good as the information it has, so we urge you to

update your preferred method (s) of notification. Go to the Borough website, **www.stockertown.org**, and click on the **CodeRED** link to add or edit your information. If you need assistance, please call the Borough office. ANY/ALL information will be secure and used only by **CodeRED** for the purpose of notifications.