

STOCKERTOWN NEWS

www.stockertown.org



ITEMS OF INTEREST

2022 Tax \$ will provide Police and Fire protection, roads, parks, and infrastructure maintenance, trash removal, administrative assistance, and free library access for \$654,896.20

2022 sewer fees will fund the WWTP with \$264,266.00

**AS of
December 01, 2021
The Borough's total
liquid assets were
\$1,018,582.10
Bond Fund Balance
\$464,713.63**

**In 2021 your part time
Police Department
made 29 criminal
arrests, 814 traffic
citations, and other
incident reports.**

**CHECK ON ELDERLY
NEIGHBORS AND
PETS DURING FRIGID
WEATHER.**



2021 IN REVIEW

General Administrative News

- Stockertown's General and Sewer Fund Budgets for 2022 totaling \$919,163 are displayed on the next page. The anticipated income and expenditures reflect our continuing effort to provide quality services to our residents. The tax rate for 2022 has been fixed at 16.5 mills, up 2.5 mills from 2021.

- The 2.5 mil increase is entirely due to the increase in the new Trash Collection Contract. Two years ago, the Borough exercised an option to extend the trash contract an additional 2 years at the same cost. While many municipalities around us saw their trash fees moderately increase, our rate remained the same, and our collector, County Waste, lost money for two years. This fall, County Waste remained the lowest bidder of only two bids, for a three year period. Their new rate, which would normally reflect a modest yearly increase, instead mirrors the huge increase of fuel and wage costs thrust upon all of us this past year. Beyond the increased charges, the terms of the contract remain the same. While it doesn't lessen the tax burden, it is important to know that our trash collection fees are now currently in line with the surrounding municipalities. To put the numbers in perspective, in 2020 and 2021 our yearly trash fee was \$54,000. In 2022 the yearly fee increased to \$129,177, a 221% increase.

- Please revisit a line from the Newsletter of January 2021.. "*County Waste's contract continues thru December of 2021 and we remind residents ...we are one of the last remaining communities to have unlimited trash and the availability to dispose of larger items with no extra charge. As the new contract is negotiated, we can expect changes to those features as well as increased fees.*"

- The sewer construction project was awarded to JOAO Bradley Construction Co. for \$2,060,450.00. Connection was completed in October and decommissioning of the Borough's WWTP will be finished in the spring of 2022.

- The sewer usage rate for 2022 will remain at \$50 per month per EDU. With the completion of the sewer connection, the sewer moratorium has been revoked, effective January 3, 2022. Tapping Fees are set at \$4006.00 per EDU for new connections.

- The Planning Commission is currently in the process of reviewing 55 building lots adjacent to Longs development. There are several other small properties available for potential development.

- Updates were made to the Zoning Ordinance and SALDO, (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance) dealing with lot sizes, set backs, steep slope development and other regulations, (see minutes of May 2020).

- The annual fee for Fire Protection remains at \$15,000, (since 2006). Other line items in the Fire Protection budget include a shared percentage of utilities, fire hydrant fees, and a fire fund contribution.

- Fry's Four Seasons renewed his contract for mowing lawn care for 2022.

Public Works Department

- The PW Department provided snow removal, road and trail maintenance, and WWTP operation. There were sewer line blockages

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DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
Ken Zemencsik

BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meets 1st & 3rd
Mondays at 7:30 PM
209 Main Street
Amy Richard, President
Kathleen Zdonowski,
Vice President
Cindy Hower
A. Joseph Gosnell
Pamela Davis
Renee Cantwell
Kim Holden-Forsyth

BOROUGH OFFICE
610 759-8393
Anita Caughy,
Secretary

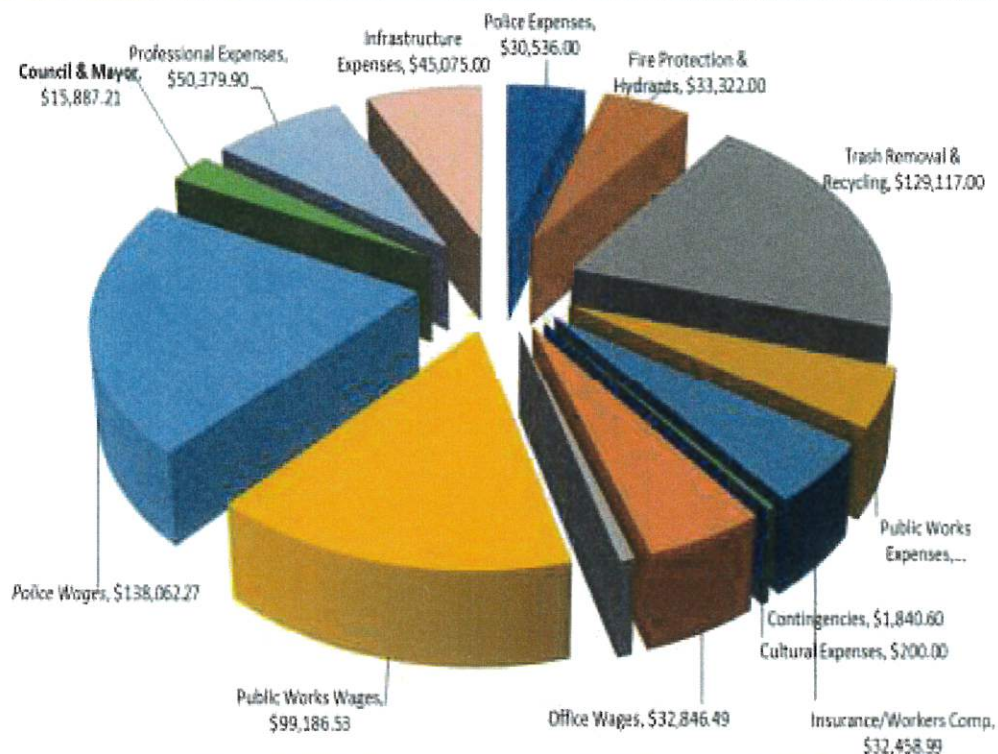
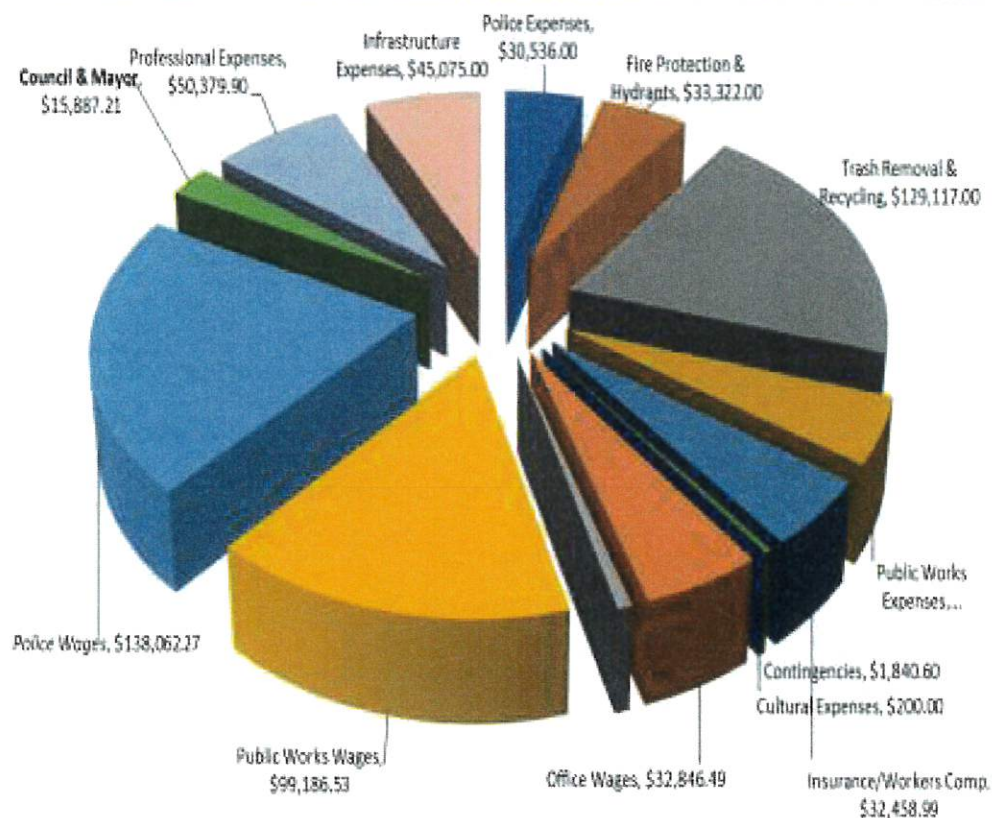
BOROUGH SOLICITOR
Gary N. Asteak

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
Kenneth Zemencsik,
Director
Daniel Lawrence
Simon Doddy

**ZONING OFFICER/
BUILDING INSPECTOR**
John Soloe

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**
Meets as Needed
3rd Tuesday 7:30 PM
Sean Dooley, Chairman
Bryce Good, Secretary
Kathleen Zdonowski
A. Joseph Gosnell

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD**
Meets as Needed
Kim Malavolta
Luccienne Dooley
Morgan Schafer

2022 BUDGETED GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**2022 BUDGETED SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES**

FOOTNOTES FROM THE BOROUGH

- **During heavy rain and flooding events** please **do not** route your sump pump or other flood waters to your sewer connection. It is unlawful and punishable by law to route stormwater of any type to the sewer system.
- **During a SNOW EMERGENCY all vehicles must be removed from the streets.** The snow emergency will be announced on WFMZ, B104, and 69 NEWS. Vehicles left on streets will be towed.
- **You have 24 hours to clear your sidewalks after a snowfall.** If you live near a hydrant, please take a few extra minutes and shovel around it.
- **It is unlawful to push or shovel snow from your property onto a public street in the Borough.** Violators will be cited.
- **Please remove your cars from public roadways during a snow storm** so the plows can clean the whole street and avoid damage to vehicles.
- **For those who would like 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 Secretary.
- **Landlord Notice:** You are required to report new tenant information. 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 for emergency purposes as well as sewer and water related issues.
- **Please** have identification tags on your pets, (cats and dogs), and make every effort to contain and protect them from traffic and harsh weather.
- Anyone with large items to be disposed of, please put them out for collection on the **first Wednesday pick-up of the month**, as large items require a special truck.

Democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work, and give to those who are not. ~Thomas Jefferson

Public Works continued from page 1 again in 2021 resulting from grease and fabric items (flushable wipes, disposable towels etc.), being introduced to the sewer system. Most of the blockages require a Jetter/Vacuum truck to clear the blockages. As these blockages become more frequent, the cost of an emergency Jetter call may soon outweigh the option of obtaining our own Jetter vehicle. .

- **The Borough will always be responsible for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the sewer lines within the Borough.** Connection to Easton's Sewer System does not change or permit the disposal of flushable wipes, feminine products, grease etc. The sewer system is NOT a garbage disposal. PW continues to video portions of the sewer lines that are suspect to issues.
- In July of 2021, Faith, Crown View, Jubilee, Patriot Lane, Freedom Way, Hillside and Birch Streets were paved by Barker and Barker Paving, for the amount of \$237,236. (\$125,000 of that amount was paid from Highway Aid funds).
- Lincoln Street was surveyed in preparation for future widening and resurfacing as an emergency ingress and egress circumventing Main Street.

Police Department

- The Police Department continues to focus on your safety by their active pursuit of drug activity and traffic violations within the Borough.
- The Police Department was awarded a Gaming Grant of \$10,000 to upgrade the security system in the Emergency Services Building on State Street, and to install a new security system in the Public Works Garage on Lefevre Road.
- Reminder: "If you see anything suspicious or uncomfortable, call the Department **610 759-3232** or **911**. Follow them on Facebook @ Stockertown Police.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

STOCKERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT NON-EMERGENCY

610 759-2200
610 759-3232, Office
Eric Schwab, Chief
Adam Shimer
Nicholas Ross
Christopher Ritter

911

FORKS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

NON-EMERGENCY
610 759-2200
Jevin Russo,
Fire Chief

State Representative
Joseph Emrick
610 759-5090

State Senator
Lisa Boscola
610 868-8667

Easton Public Library
610 258-2917

POST OFFICE
Postmaster
610 759-6278

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

NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY SPCA
610 252-7722
www.healthyanimalcenter.org

2022

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH SCHEDULE



- INDICATES DAY / DATE OF MEETING - BOROUGH COUNCIL
- INDICATES DAY / DATE OF MEETING - BUDGET MEETINGS
- INDICATES DAY / DATE OF MEETING - PLANNING COMMISSION
- INDICATES NON-WEDNESDAY GARBAGE PICK UP
- INDICATES PAID HOLIDAY
- INDICATES ELECTION DAY

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30	31					

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November						
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December						
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