

STOCKERTOWN NEWS

www.stockertown.org



ITEMS OF INTEREST

2023 Tax \$ will provide Fire protection, roads, parks, and infrastructure maintenance, trash removal, administrative assistance, free library access, and eventually a Borough Police Department for \$694,661.

2023 sewer fees will fund the sewer service with EAJSA for \$264,266.

As of December 30, 2022, the Borough's total liquid assets were \$868,427.17

CHECK ON ELDERLY NEIGHBORS AND PETS DURING WINTER WEATHER.

May the New Year be blessed with fortune and good health... and a vacation....



2022 IN REVIEW

General Administrative News

- Stockertown's General and Sewer Fund Budgets for 2023 totaling \$958,927 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 2023 has been fixed at 18 mils, up 1.5 mils from 2022. The 1.5 mil increase mirrors the increase in insurances, gas, fuel oil, electricity, and wage increases across the country.
- The sewer usage rate for 2023 will remain at \$50 per month per EDU. The sewer moratorium has been revoked, effective January 3, 2022. Tapping Fees are set at \$4,006 per EDU for each new connection.
- The annual fee for Fire Protection provided by Forks Township, 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 lawn care contract has been renewed for 2023.

Police Department Update

- While we anticipated having police coverage provided by Stockertown's restructured Police Department by Mid December, it has not been possible. There's an obvious scarcity of experienced and reputable law enforcement candidates across the country, and it is no different in the Lehigh Valley. Added to that issue, is the on-going "negative chatter" which continues to ward off interested applicants. Unfortunately, candidates interviewed are reluctant to accept a position fearing for their reputation. It will take a strong individual to step into the top position and set the standard for new officers. We WILL have our own Police Department, but it appears it will take longer than hoped for.
- During this period, the PA State Police, Belfast Barracks, continue to provide coverage. Please stay vigilant. Stay connected with your neighbors and friends and keep an extra eye on the single and elderly in your neighborhood. Above all, be assured that every effort is focused on creating a reputable Police Department that the residents expect and deserve.

Public Works Department

- The PW Department provided snow removal, road and trail maintenance, and WWTP/ sewer line operation. There were fewer sewer line blockages in 2022, but please remember, like our prior WWTP, connection to Easton's Sewer System does not 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. The Borough will always be responsible for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the sewer lines within the Borough.
- The Borough was awarded a Northampton County Gaming Grant for \$72,210 toward the purchase of a 2022 Ford 550 truck with snow plow and salt spreader. The Borough will add \$34,437 as its percentage match.

Continued on page 3

DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
 Rosemarie
 Wenzelberger

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
 Katie Santiago

BOROUGH OFFICE
 610 759-8393
 Anita Caughy,
 Secretary

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
 Gary N. Asteak

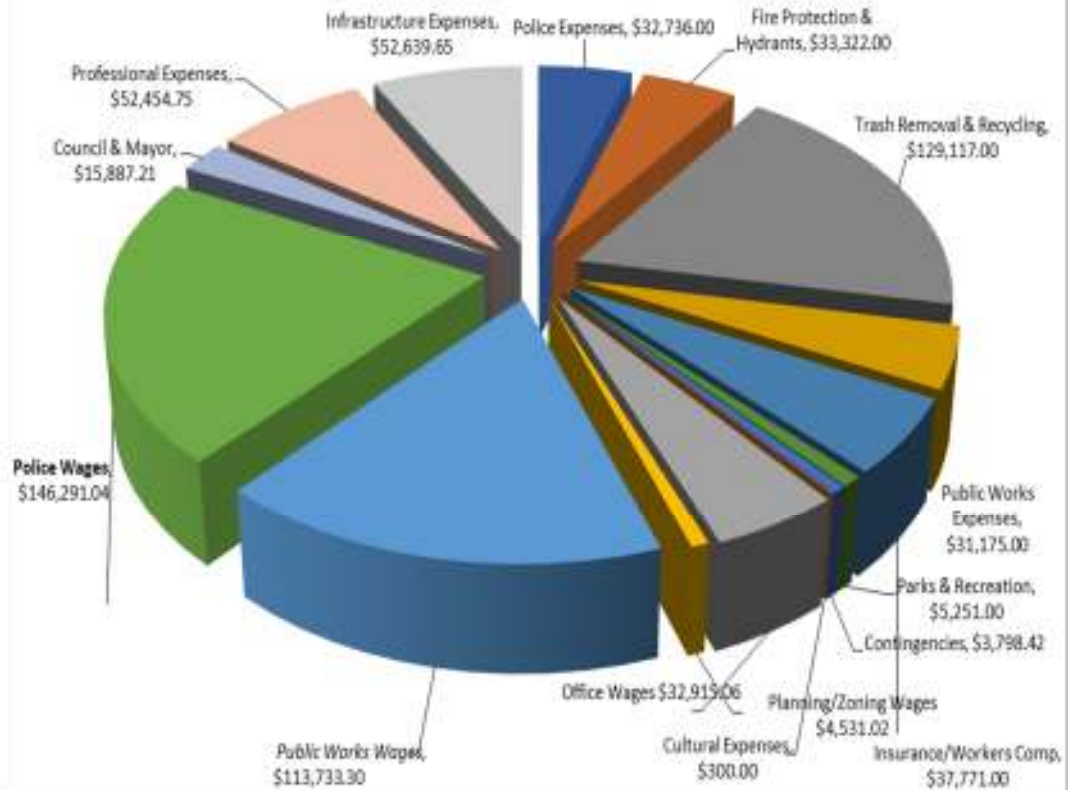
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
 Kenneth Zemencsik,
 Director
 Kevin Nolf
 Jasper Zeigafuse

**ZONING OFFICER/
 BUILDING INSPECTOR**
 John Soloe

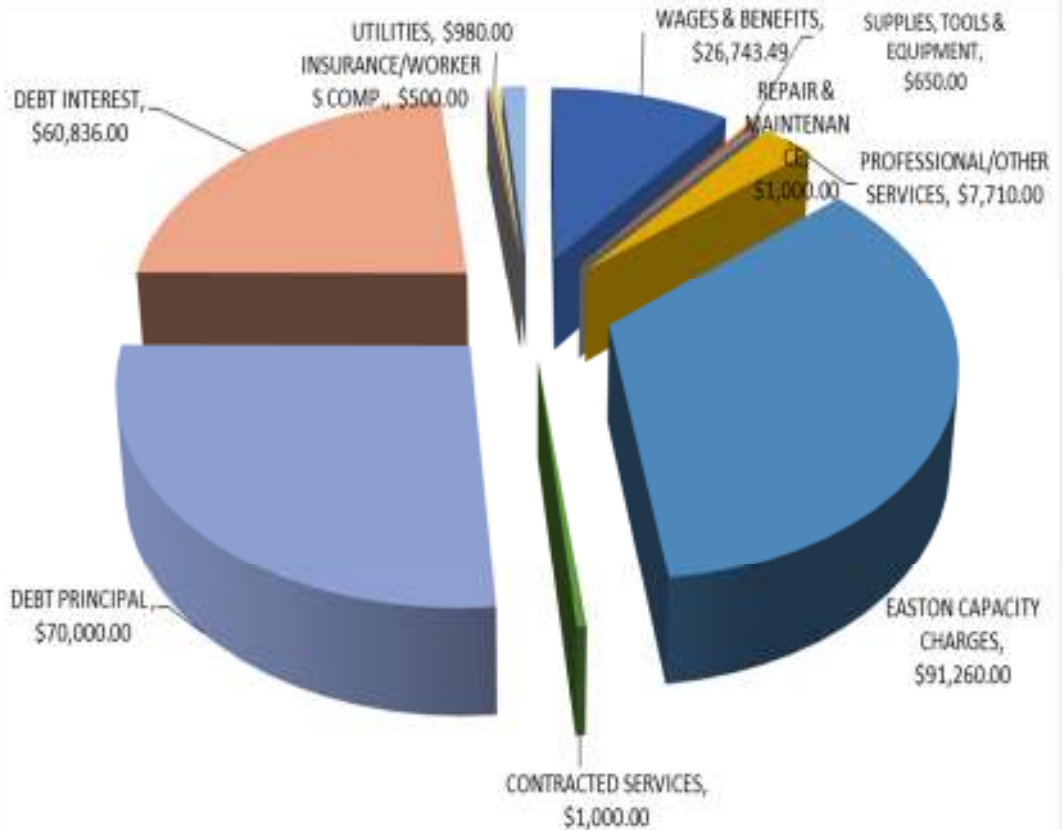
**PLANNING
 COMMISSION**
 Meets as Needed
 3rd Tuesday 7:30 PM
 Sean Dooley, Chairman
 Bryce Good, Secretary
 Kathleen Zdonowski
 A. Joseph Gosnell

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

2023 BUDGETED GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



2023 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. The parking lots on State Street, and Center Street Trail head will be plowed continually for off street parking during snow events for your use.
- **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.
- **Please** have identification tags on your pets, (cats and dogs), and make every effort to contain and protect them from traffic and harsh weather.
- **Bulk Pickup:** Anyone with large items to be disposed of can put out 1 large item per week on Wednesdays.

Continued from page 1 There are two grant submittals to be awarded this spring. One grant is for a track loader with multiple attachments, and the second grant would provide funding to repair and resurface part of Lincoln Street. Fingers crossed.

The Planning Commission

- Planning members will begin reviewing the Borough's current zoning regs, comparing them to the new Comprehensive Plan. They are reviewing sketch plans for a potential Flex Center Warehouse, and a variance request from Joshua Tree, both located on Center Street.

CodeRED

CodeRED is a high speed notification system which can quickly deliver Amber Alerts, extreme weather conditions, road closings, and other messages from State Police, NOHA weather and the Borough, by phone, cell phone, text, or email. **CodeRED** uses a data base supplied from county records, which may not be accurate and will not include cell phone and email addresses. The system is only as good as the information input. We urge everyone to go to the Boro website, stockertown.org **click on the large CodeRED** and sign up and/or update your preferred method (s) of notification. ALL information is secure and used only by **CodeRED** for the purpose of notification and will never be sold, or made available to anyone for any reason. Call the Borough Office if you don't have internet service, need more information, or help signing up. You pay for this...please use it.

Local Food Banks are in need of canned and boxed foods from those able to donate, and is available to those less fortunate.

Nazareth Area Food Bank
529 South Main Street
Nazareth, PA
610 365-8869

Animal Food Bank of LV
860 Broad Street #115
Emmaus, PA
610 421 8014

EMERGENCY SERVICES

**COUNTY
NON-EMERGENCY**

610 759-2200

Pennsylvania State Police, Belfast is providing protection for the Borough.

911

**FORKS VOLUNTEER
FIRE COMPANY**

Fire Chief
Jevin Russo

State Representative
Joseph Emrick
610 746-5090

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.healthy animal-center.org

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

2023 STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH SCHEDULE

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

January						
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February						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30