

Abington Township 2010 Budget

After five workshops starting in October, the Board of Commissioners concluded its review on December 17 and voted 10 to 5 to adopt the Municipal Budget for 2010.

The general **Municipal Budget** of \$32,341,194 represents less than a 1% increase over 2009 and will require a 2% property tax increase (approximately \$9 for the average household) which is the first increase in 19 years. This year's Budget process was complicated by the economic downturn. Business tax revenues were down 2%, and there are decreases in interest on investments and real estate transaction fees as well as a reduction in State aid to the Library.

Consequently, the Board of Commissioners found it necessary to implement a number of expenditure reductions that include the elimination of the Township Newsletter. Such information will now be shared on the website.

Further savings were accomplished by altering the Police vehicle replacement schedule. In addition, all Township employees have agreed to increase their contribution to the Pension fund in order to avoid impact upon the taxpayer.

Other items such as the Senior Bus program and other service reductions as well as employee lay-offs were closely examined but were ultimately preserved.

The **Municipal Budget** provides for the continuation of services such as Police, Parks & Recreation, Road Maintenance, Library, Code Enforcement and Building Inspection, and related support activities.

The **Capital Program** is \$1.3 million for seven flood control projects and equipment for Parks, Fire, Public Works, the Library and Economic Development initiatives, and the re-paving of 8 miles of the Township's 170 miles of roadway (see 2010 Road Overlay Program on this webpage for specific locations). The Program also anticipates a \$3 million bond issue to fund flood-related projects at 40 additional prioritized locations throughout the Township.

The **Fire Budget** is \$1,997,124 and supports our all-volunteer Fire Department. There will be a 3-1/2% increase in the Fire tax which will cost the average household an additional \$3 over last year.

The **Sewer Budget** totals \$8,863,497 and is totally supported by customer fees. Sewer rates will increase by 3% such that the Sewer fee for

the average home using 56,500 gallons will increase by \$8 to a very competitive \$274 per year.

The Refuse Budget of \$5,432,931 which is likewise supported by customer fees is down for the fourth year in a row due to the continued transition to the automated collection system as well as the stabilization of the waste disposal fee at the regional trash-to-steam plant. As a result, the refuse fees will once again be decreased to a very competitive \$251 (95 gallon container), \$224 (65 gallon container), and \$196 (35 gallon container).

Goals for 2010 include the following:

- Economic Development
 - complete the 611 Corridor Study
 - conduct planning study for Noble Transportation district
 - update Roslyn Revitalization Plan
 - pursue redevelopment of Baederwood Shopping Center
- Flood Control – continued improvements via the Capital Budget and work with other communities on the State’s new stormwater regulations.
- Zoning Ordinance Update
- Continue “Green” Initiatives – continue transition to hybrid vehicles, and begin transition to LED street lighting.
- Continue Traffic Enforcement Initiatives
- Complete Fire Department Accreditation
- Determine Future of Police Communications Center