

RIDGWAY BOROUGH BUDGET MEETING
Second Ward Firehall
321 W Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
October 26, 2022

The budget development meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 26, 2022 at the Second Ward Firehall.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Steve Lawrie, Steve Caggese, Brent Kemmer and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Michael Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof and Recording Secretary Diana Newell.

ABSENT: Council members Abbi Peters & Ralph Dussia.

Borough Manager Mike Handley opened the meeting by announcing the dates of the next few budget sessions as well as the December meeting where the budget will be tentatively adopted. Handley reported Gary Gerber from the Skate Park organization has sent a letter requesting to be in the borough's budget for \$20,000 to repair certain jumps and replacement pieces at the Skate Park. Handley and council members agreed to bring this to a committee meeting to discuss further.

Motor License

Handley reported there are funds coming in from PennDOT as well as liquid fuel funds. He requested to pay off the pavement loan and transfer the rest of the money into the snow removal fund.

Equipment Depreciation

Handley reported he would like to request to implement a five-year plan for the borough assets starting in 2023. He stated the Police Department has requested a new vehicle for 2023 which would cost about \$93,000 outfitted. He stated the department currently has three marked police cars and one unmarked police car. Handley also reported the mowing crew would like to request a new bank mower which is estimated at \$42,000. Councilman Lawrie assured Handley he would assist him in finding a much lower cost for a new mower. Handley also stated the crew is in need of a new snow plow as well as a new skid steer. He assured council they would look at different options to put into the budget for these items. After much discussion, council members were not in favor of the new police car and would assist Handley in finding cheaper costs for the new equipment that is needed.

Timber

Handley reported the funds are dwindling down and are at \$11,000 currently. He stated there is a tree that needs removed from Olson Park and will be using funds allocated from the 2022 budget. He proposed to budget \$5,000 for the Shade Tree Commission in 2023. This would bring the total funds down to about \$6,000.

Recreation

Handley reported that not much will change for the recreation fund and the budget will be balanced.

Refuse

Handley reported there aren't many changes to the refuse fund except for a slight wage increase for the employees. Handley reported to council that they need to decide whether to keep funding the recycling center or to request the township to reconsider helping offset the costs. He reported the recycling center will have an increase to about \$8,000 for 2023 due to rising costs of fuel etc.

Ridgway Mills

Handley reported he looked at the year to date with the Ridgway Mills property and stated how there a lot of expenses including maintenance, insurance, website etc. He stated the rack cards will be purchased soon and distributed for advertising purposes as well as the dump station installation in the beginning of next year. Handley reported the Ridgway Mills fund is in the hole \$10,000 and the money will need transferred from a separate fund to balance the budget.

After no further discussion, council adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm. The next budget session will be held on Wednesday November 2, 2023 at 4:30pm.