

RIDGWAY BOROUGH BUDGET MEETING
Second Ward Firehall
321 W Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
November 9, 2022

The budget development meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday November 9, 2022 at the Second Ward Firehall.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Abbi Peters, Steve Lawrie, Steve Caggese, Brent Kemmer and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Michael Handley, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Mayor Ray Imhof, Finance Director Tama Foster and Recording Secretary Diana Newell.

ABSENT: Council Member Ralph Dussia

Borough Manager Mike Handley opened the meeting by discussing some topics from the past two meetings. Handley reported after much discussion with the crew, they are on board for putting a new bank mower in the budget which will be used to maintain the banks within the borough. He also explained they looked into it further and found many different attachments that could be purchased in the future for the bank mower. Handley reported he will add the bank mower to the budget in the amount of \$42,000. He stated the money would be transferred from equipment depreciation fund and put into the general fund for the purchase if council approves.

Chief Police Officer Shawn Geci gave a short presentation on why the police department is requesting a new police car to be put into the budget. Geci provided many good reasons why the department needs a new car and the importance of having many reliable cars available for the officers to use for various things such as pursuits, everyday driving, and even court hearings. He expressed his concern for being in a bind and not having enough reliable vehicles available for his officers. He explained that he has helped the borough with a great deal of savings so far by applying for grants etc. for things they have needed throughout the last year. He also stated they typically rotate a vehicle out every two years to keep them newer and low on miles. Geci explained they haven't received a new vehicle in three years and they are due.

Handley discussed the general fund can either be funded by trucked waste money or raising taxes. He stated the new police car with the outfitting would cost about \$93,000. He assured council that he would prepare a budget with the police car included and one without the police car included so they can decide.

Handley reported the budget will include \$10,000 for the Ridgway Mills for general maintenance and operations. He also stated he is putting \$1,000 in the budget for Animal Haven as per their request for the trap and release program. Handley requested for some exterior lights on the borough building to be on at night time. Council members stated it was in the budget previously but was never completed. Handley stated he would like to start a five-year equipment upgrade fund with the capital replacement funds.

Water

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone presented council with the water budget. Quattrone stated the water distribution are the pipes under the streets and there is \$153,800 put into the budget for those. He explained there have been many administrative changes with the amount of \$87,100 budgeted for administration. He stated there is \$6,000 budgeted for fire hydrants and the employee benefits and taxes for a total of \$142,557. He reported a surplus of \$18,957 for the water plant and a surplus of \$7,519 surplus for the water capital replacement.

Sewer

Quattrone presented the sewer budget to council members. He reported the income for the sewer plant has increased due to the inflations. He stated the sewage treatment plant has had a savings with chemicals of \$50,000. He explained Ross Depanfilis will be going to Motorola training which \$10,000 would be budgeted for this. Quattrone stated the administration budget is set at \$118,000 and the employee benefits at \$180,520. He reported there is a surplus of \$707,340.

Quattrone explained the amount for the sewer capital replacement is \$764,000 with the expenses set at \$444,481. Quattrone provided council with a short slide show on the operating costs and discussed a possible rate increase within the next couple of years in order to stay ahead.

Handley explained to council how a 1 MIL and 2 MIL tax increase would affect an average person if this would be their decision on how to fill in the shortfall for the 2023 budget. Handley reported the budget will tentatively be adopted on November 21, 2022 at the regular borough council meeting.

Council adjourned the meeting at 6:00p.m. and will meet again at the regular council meeting held on Monday November 21, 2022.