

RIDGWAY BOROUGH BUDGET MEETING
Second Ward Fire Hall
321 W Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853
November 8, 2023

The budget development meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at the Second Ward Firehall.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Abbi Peters, Steve Lawrie, Steve Caggese, and Brent Kemmer. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Mike Handley, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Mayor Ray Imhof, and Recording Secretary Jake Mercer.

ABSENT: Council members Ralph Dussia and Ron Burkett

Borough Manager Mike Handley opened the meeting by saying the new budget will be tentatively adopted at the next borough council meeting on Monday, November 20.

In regards to the ambulance referendum, Handley said things may have to be adjusted to account for this in the budget and allocated taxes collected for the ambulance may need to be modified in Council chooses to do so. The official adoption of the new budget is set for Monday, December 18, 2023.

Water

Borough Manager Mike Handley commented that all departments are trying to get the budget numbers right down to the expenditures. Handley said that it is important for all department heads to know where the money is coming from and where it's going. He complimented Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone and his team for the "great work" they did with the water and sewer budget.

Quattrone complemented his staff for doing great work and keeping things "really tight" and contributed this to good process control on the water side.

Handley said that they do plan on purchasing a number of fire hydrants because parts are hard to come by. He went on to say that the water distribution is similar to last year.

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone said although the cost for the streaming current meter is high, it is a vital piece of equipment that measures that actual charge in the water.

Sewer

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone said there is a huge decrease in chemical usage in regards to the sewage treatment plant. He went on to say that some things react badly with municipal waste, while some things react well.

Quattrone said when it comes to discarding waste, permits dictate capacity with how much they put into the plant. Quattrone once again had high praise for his crew in doing their jobs effectively when it comes to this task.

Quattrone said that a new truck will have to be purchased in the future and the funds to purchase that truck would come out of the sewer capital fund.

To balance the budget, Quattrone said that the income allocation had to be adjusted. For this fund, this is drawn from 79% of the operating fund and 21% of the capital fund.

He said that they have to decide on whether to install two new clarifiers this winter or in the spring. The contractor that Quattrone is working with said that he can install them in the winter, and Quattrone said the only thing that would stop the contractor from installing these clarifiers is a heavy snowfall.

Borough Manager Handley said they are expecting to have a SCADA project at the sewage treatment plant so there is more of an allocation for their operations engineers.

Handley said there is about 3.2 million dollars in the sewer fund as of September 30 and we have an expected 1.6 million dollar sewer fund operating expense in 2024.

Handley went on to say that they want to track assets better. Anything above \$5,000 they want to keep a record of continued investment.

Councilman Lawrie asked Quattrone if there is something “big” related to the sewer fund in the coming years that they are not prepared for.

The biggest challenge that Quattrone said they face in the future were upgrades to the water plant. Quattrone said that decisions made on upgrades would have to start occurring a couple years from now.

Executive session was called at 5:25 p.m. by Handley to discuss a legal matter and no further discussion was had. The Ridgway Borough Council will hold a regular meeting on Monday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m.