

THE BOROUGH OF RIDGWAY BUDGET MEETING #1
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853
October 22, 2025 at 4:30pm

The budget development meeting of the Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Steve Caggese at 4:33 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members - Steve Caggese, Zack Pontious, Abbi Peters, and Brent Kemmer. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Mike Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof, Chief Ken Hinton, and Recording Secretary Cari Amacher.

ABSENT: Council members – Steve Lawrie, Chris Matheson, and Ron Burkett

Borough Manager Mike Handley said this is a special meeting of the Council and the agenda has been posted. Other budget meeting dates Handley mentioned were October 29 at 4:30 p.m. and November 5 at 4:30 p.m. Handley said if they do not settle on the budget they may have to have another meeting in place. At the regular meeting of the Council on November 17, Handley said that they will tentatively adopt the proposed budgets. The next meeting of the Council will take place on December 15. The council will vote to adopt the budgets and the 2026 tax ordinance/resolution.

Motor License

Handley said this fund is liquid fuels monies from PennDOT and the Borough is going to receive an estimated \$129,000. This amount is in addition to the allocated funds for the paving project that is moved to 2026. Handley said even with a bid award of \$218,000, that could change due to unknowns that may occur while paving.

Handley mentioned one of the major tasks that was worked on was milling down the apron between the curb and the pavement to ensure proper water flow. He also said it is best to correspond the ADA ramps with the road paving to make it as ADA as possible.

Equipment Depreciation

Handley said \$17,000 is allocated towards this fund and is primarily used to offset vehicle or equipment purchase. Handley said the plan would be to hold onto the funds to build up the reserves. Then the following year there would be \$34,000 in the reserves.

Timber

Handley said \$5,000 from this fund is used towards the Shade Tree Commission.

Recreation

Handley brought up the repaving project of the Community Pool parking lot. He presented a quote for approximately \$20,000 that would be added as a capital project under recreation and fund it under the Auxiliary Fund.

Councilman Kemmer asked Handley if the \$20,000 was for repaving it or sealing it. Handley said the quote is for milling, fixing the existing potholes, an overlay for 8,300 square feet with about 2 inches of compacted asphalt. Handley said the budget has been reduced due to major projects that took place last year and the year before.

Councilwoman Peters said the \$50,000 funding from the Conservation Fund will be award in 2026 to be put under the Mills or Recreation fund, where it would be appropriate. This funding may be used for planning and engineering for our riverfront redevelopment project. This will be a PA Wilds collaboration.

Handley said \$56,000 is the approximate phase two cost for the splash pad. This would be for a slide that goes to the shallow end of the pool. We are hopeful to secure grant funding to install. The auxiliary fund will be used to balance the recreation budget and \$10,000 will be used from the recreation fund unallocated reserves.

Handley said the pool wages for contracting services increased from \$47,000 to \$49,000. He mentioned offering extended hours of operation and open earlier certain days. Handley stated that the team did a lot of upgrades in the equipment room and installed new chemical feeders to improve efficiency. He presented the current daily rate for pool admissions and wishes to keep similar rates for the community. Council spoke about adjusting the rates for pool passes and possibly charging modifications for non-residents. Councilwoman Peters brought up a way to discount passes if purchased by a certain date. Councilman Pontious asked for data collection on pool usage and admission rates.

Councilman Caggese asked about the Summer Parks Program budget having a \$4,000 difference. Handley explained the transition of the program from a borough-managed program to a school district program. The cost remains the same, but the Borough's expense is reduced from \$8,000 to \$4,000 due to the school district paying the employees directly and the township providing additional support. The \$4,000 increase is for borough support for upkeep of the parks as we are required to do so.

Handley discussed allocating monies from the general fund to the recreation fund. This is the monies collected from the increase in skill machines. He stated instead of raising taxes, we should opt to reallocate certain millage such as street lighting once we confirm a reduction of energy costs. He stated the street lighting budget use to be \$83,000 but since has been lowered to \$70,000.

Refuse

Handley noted that the refuse department has been dissolved and now we all work as one public works team. The whole public works team meets at 6 a.m. to collect garbage for two top three hours and then works on projects the remainder of the day.

Handley said \$8,000 would be put in the state pension allocation but it may need to be reduced depending on another department outcome. It could be reduced zero. If there is an operational change or contract change, there could be a loss of upwards of \$50,000 that would have potential impacts on multiple fund budgets.

Ridgway Mills

Handley spoke about feedback from the insurance companies regarding the securing the smaller warehouse on the property. This warehouse needs a garage door. The cost for this would be approximately \$15,000. Handley said the campground costs are going down \$5,000 due to the concessionaire's manual labor and reduced expenses. He complemented Lazy River Canoe Rental for overseeing the grounds.

The budget development meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.