

## **THE BOROUGH OF RIDGWAY BUDGET MEETING #2**

**Ridgway Municipal Building  
108 Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853  
October 29, 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 29, 2025 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members – Steve Caggese, Abbi Peters, Zack Pontious, Brent Kemmer, Steve Lawrie

Also in attendance were Borough Manager Mike Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof, Chief Ken Hinton, and Recording Secretary Cari Amacher.

ABSENT: Council members – Chris Matheson and Ron Burkett

Councilman Caggese shared with Council that the water and sewer fund meeting will be held on November 5 at 4:30 p.m. and additional meetings will be scheduled if needed.

### **Recreation Fund**

Borough Manager Mike Handley reviewed the Recreation fund with an additional capital project to include the rubber surface matting underneath the playground equipment at O.B. Grant park. There is a grant application for \$88,875 to fund this project in which the Borough would have a 15% match of about \$13,500 that was previously approved.

Handley spoke about line painting for the paving project for the community pool parking lot. There will also be an added line item as well with the inclusion of Verizon Wireless Interest costing about \$40 a month for the camera systems installed at the restroom.

Handley mentioned he is working with the YMCA to offer discounted rates and gift certificates for the community pool for Ridgway Borough residents.

### **Ridgway Mills Fund**

Handley discussed including the \$50,000 grant funding from the Conservation Fund in collaboration with the PA Wilds Center for the Ridgway Riverfront Redevelopment project.

### **General Fund**

Handley said the amusement device license income of \$12,000 earmarked from amusement devices. Handley noted this money may be used to assist in maintaining the parks as well as support the public library. Council discussed the need for clarity from the state regarding amusement devices before considering increasing rates for for-profit businesses.

Handley discussed the police department's budget including additional funding from the drug task force patrols. Councilman Peters and Chief Hinton had a lengthy discussion regarding state funding and

incorporating this funding into the budget due to the reimbursement nature of the grants. It was highly recommended that he should encourage the officers to participate in these grants supported work detail that include Click It or Ticket, DUI Checkpoints, and Aggressive Drivers to name a few.

Handley spoke about the fire department's reserve funding to be used to purchase a utility truck. The total cost for the F350 is approximately \$80,000. The fire department fund directors will pay \$20,000 and the Fire department's capital reserves fund will pay the remaining \$60,000.

Handley discussed the role of the code enforcement officer and the benefits of having a full-time officer for the Borough of Ridgway, which would result in improved compliance and reduced long-term costs. He spoke about the possibility of sharing a part-time code officer with Johnsonburg Borough. Council and Handley discussed the full-time code enforcement officer position before deciding to earmark the position with \$25,000 added to the budget.

Handley noted a decrease in the public works budget. Handley also complimented the team's planning and applying capital request forms from the supervisors to ensure long-term budget stability.

Handley said the street lighting levy should remain unchanged as it generates \$60,000-\$70,000 which almost covers the actual costs. Handley proposed keeping the same tax levy for the library and streetlights and allocating another \$4,000 as a community contribution funded by the revenue from the skills machines.

Handley said Councilman Matheson recommended to opt for the one mill relief to the Ambulance Corp that is already included in the budget for \$50,000.

Handley said the total operating budget is moving from approximately \$2.2 million to \$2.25 million, with less than a \$60,000 increase. Handley discussed capital expenditures, including the street sweeper, main office renovations and camera replacements at the Borough building.

Handley said there was a request for a new police vehicle, noting the current one is close to 100,000 miles and the warranty ends at that point. It was reported to Handley that one of the reasons was the police truck not being implemented as much as it should throughout the year. Chief Hinton plans to use the high mileage vehicle with the SRO position and utilize the police truck with the officers at the station.

Handley discussed the Auxiliary Fund that was approved by council last year. Handley said this fund will subsidize other funds to assist in defraying tax increases. This proposal includes transferring money from the auxiliary fund to other funds to avoid tax increases. Handley did stress the importance in setting a good policy for this fund to prevent spending large amounts of money without proper planning. He stated that nearly all funds are being subsidized.

The budget development meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.