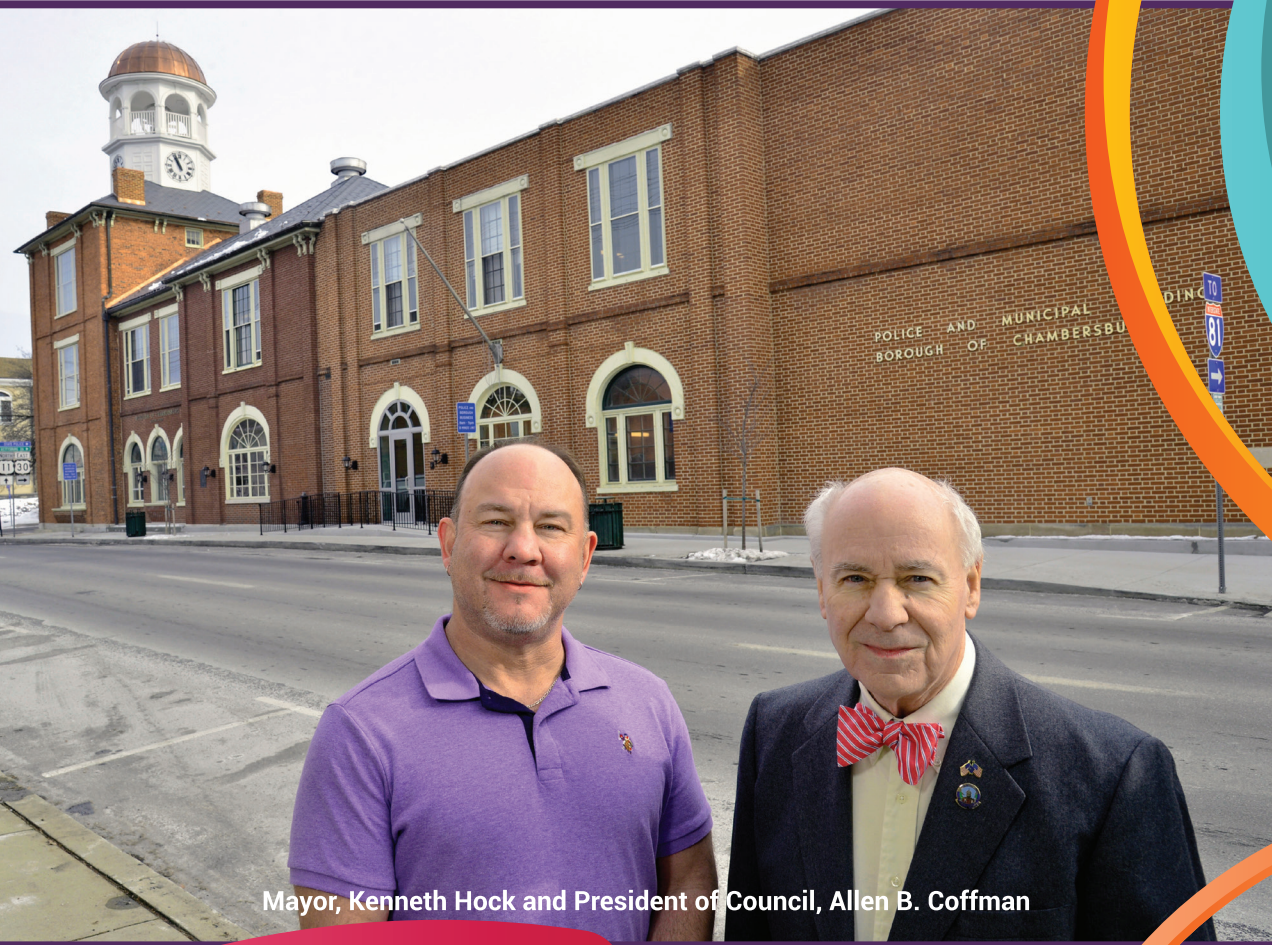


Published April 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**The Only Town In Pennsylvania
With The Most Services & Utilities:**

Electric Distribution • Electric Generation • Water • Sewer • Sanitation
Storm Sewer • Natural Gas • Emergency Services • Recycling • Police
Public Works • Recreation • Land Use • Community Development



Mayor, Kenneth Hock and President of Council, Allen B. Coffman



**+ 2024
FORECAST**



PRESIDENT OF TOWN COUNCIL ALLEN COFFMAN

As I am writing this article, we just finished the exciting Ice Fest 2024. While the temperatures were warmer than expected, the crowds were good and businesses saw a few days of what our special downtown has to offer. Another record-breaking event with more ice sculptures than ever before.

Once again, the holiday lights that are placed around Founding Fathers Statue stayed in place until the fest was completed. It would be really nice if the weather would stay cold to preserve the carvings without the threat of rain or snow to end their artistic beauty, but it has been a mild winter.

The end of 2023 brought a conclusion to several Borough projects that were being worked on for some time. The following projects were completed and need to be recognized. Our historic Memorial Fountain came home in May and looks absolutely great! The Borough hall clock and bell tower have been restored and reopened like the original design. The Chambersburg Police Department moved into their new and modified headquarters in October. It is state of the art and, will serve them well for years to come! Keystone Health bought the property at Southgate which was the home of Gold's Gym. They will construct a new health care building which is slated to open in June 2025.

Certainly, another wonderful surprise to us was a grant for over \$5.2 million dollars (with no matching fee) for replacement of cast iron gas lines. This was received through Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA), a part of the Department of Transportation. Our gas utility was also recognized and awarded the gold level of the American Public Gas Association SOAR (System Operational Achievement Recognition) award. Only five communities in the United States received this award in 2023. Another first and unusual thing last year was the use of goats to clear vegetation between the rail trail and the Conococheague creek. They did a thorough job and I expect we will see them again this year.

As we look forward to this year, there are things we all have to consider. We passed a Borough budget in December, which did not change property taxes. The police tax is 25 mils, the fire tax is 3 mils, the recreation bond tax is 2.5 mils, and the police station bond tax is 2 mils. All are unchanged from 2023. The Borough of Chambersburg receives only 17¢ of each \$1.00 paid by our citizens in real estate taxes. The balance goes to Chambersburg Area School District, Franklin County, and the Franklin County Library System.

The other part of our operations that we have are the utilities. There is no change in natural gas rates. This has not changed since 2013. The electric rate will go up about 11.3% starting with the January billing for December 2023 use. There is no change in the sanitary sewer rate. Which has seen no change since 2012. A small

rate increase in sanitation rates will happen in 2024. Our water rate will increase \$0.03 per unit. A unit is 74.8 gallons. Single family homes will not see an increase in storm water increased pollution control fees this year. Lastly, the ambulance fee has been raised to \$11.00 per month for each water service account. All of the changes were made after careful deliberation. Actually, the Borough is much better off than most, maybe even all municipalities in Pennsylvania. Inflation, coupled with rising energy costs, have hurt all of us, and I expect a continuation through this year. This inflation has also hurt the buying power of the borough as well.

We value our utilities and will do all that is necessary to maintain, modernize, and protect what we have. Our utilities are our strength and provide maximum reliability at the least cost to our customers. In most cases, I believe we are the lowest, or near the lowest, statewide.

I want to recognize the efforts of our Police Department and its leadership in the effort to achieve formal accreditation by the state. Only 11 % of Pennsylvania police departments achieve this goal. Nationwide, that number is 18% of all departments.

Also of interest is the status of the Glen Street fountain. All we need now is warm weather to allow the finishing and reassembly to take place. The fountain itself is finished and in storage until needed. I expect the neighborhood will have some good ideas for a celebration as we put it back into operation, probably in May.

Just two more things I need to mention. First, the old cold storage building on South Fourth Street has been removed to prepare for a future relocation of the borough garage. We continue to work on a design to replace the over 100-year-old Loudon Street facility, which is totally inadequate for servicing and repairing the equipment now in use by our utilities.

Finally, I want to thank all of our citizens who serve on our boards, committees, and commissions. We have 31 of these groups which serve our requirements. These people are very important to the operation of the borough and serve in these positions at no cost to the taxpayers. Many volunteers remain on the groups for years and are reappointed again as their terms expire. The turnover rate can be very infrequent as they enjoy playing a part in a very complex organization. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, I encourage you to fill out a talent bank form found on the Borough of Chambersburg website.

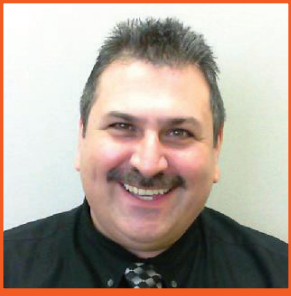
Those of us who live in the Borough have much to be thankful for. We have avoided serious problems that are way too common in larger communities. Although we are running out of space for new development, we are still growing both in housing and population. This is a great and safe community to live in and to raise a family. I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2024!



Fully Restored City Hall Cupola



Restored Memorial Square Fountain



BOROUGH MANAGER & DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES
JEFFREY STONEHILL

**Chambersburg Borough Adopts 2024 Budget:
A Bright Economic Future for Chambersburg**

Chambersburg Borough has the most complex budget in Pennsylvania. We are unlike every other town, including big cities. Separated from the other operations of the Borough, our utility financial transactions are in over a dozen separate funds (accounts). Our unique size is due to our expansive utility operations (unmatched in Pennsylvania) and because of our complex utility support operations (internal service funds). To account properly for expenses, we use cost-based accounting. Like a law firm or medical practice, many employees bill their time and equipment to the various functions upon which they are working. This includes money spent between the separate funds; many transactions are to cover expenses, back and forth between accounts, and thousands of internal transactions. This concept makes Chambersburg a unique government organization, especially in the Commonwealth.

Chambersburg is one of 35 Boroughs in Pennsylvania to operate a non-profit public power electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and the only one to operate multiple generation stations. Chambersburg is one of two municipalities in Pennsylvania to operate a non-profit public natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Chambersburg is one of around 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and one of 1,000 communities to run a natural gas system, but one of only about 100 in the U.S. to operate both systems, out of 89,000 local government units. In addition, Chambersburg operates a regional water system and a regional sanitary sewer system; not through an independent authority or an intermunicipal board, but under Town Council oversight directly. Further, Chambersburg operates a trash utility, a parking utility, an aquatic center, and a storm sewer utility. The Storm Sewer Utility was one of the first such storm sewer utilities to form under the federal mandate to regulate stormwater through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program.

Almost all employees of the Borough and most of the equipment of the borough, is owned and operated by our utility departments (Electric, Gas, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Sanitation Departments) and our utility support departments (engineering, motor equipment, and administrative services). Borough tax revenue does not support any utility operations, personnel, or equipment. Further, as the budget document reveals, the Borough's utility rates are very reasonable.

Residents inside the Borough who have both Chambersburg electric and gas can save as much as \$1,000 per year when compared to similar residential customers outside the Borough.

In summary, 2024 is going to be another very consequential year for the Borough of Chambersburg. We have a number of extremely important projects in-the-works. While the cost of operations will continue to rise, and outpace natural growth in revenue, because of inflation and supply chain interruptions, record-low-unemployment, and the increasing demand on fuel, energy, and limited equipment, this was a challenging budget.

There is no tax increase in any category contemplated for 2024.

Chambersburg Borough has once again managed to bridge a financial downturn in the economy. The impacts from the COVID aftermath, and significant inflation, have challenged the Borough's fiscal operations. However, the continued growth and development of Chambersburg, the importance of the utilities to Borough finances, and the macroeconomic impact on the Chambersburg area

economy, have allowed us to move forward cautiously despite the impact of inflation and the national economy on all our lives. Therefore, the theme of this year's budget was "A bright economic future for Chambersburg."

The community has completed the complex Police Station Renovation Project. The Southgate Redevelopment Project has started to show progress with the approval of the Keystone Rural Health community medical facility at Southgate, and a sizeable Federal grant to begin to restore neighborhood infrastructure. Finally, planning continues for a new Public Works campus off Wayne Avenue. Chambersburg utilities remain the most important asset in the community. Ensuring low rates and excellent infrastructure is our key objective.

While we have 2024 available to plan for future growth, we need to note with admiration as the Borough continues to redevelop; and new businesses and opportunities flock to our town. Whether it is additional development on Norland Avenue, off Wayne Avenue, South Main Street, or downtown, Chambersburg has a clear and convincing track record of hosting employers and business startups.

This marks yet another year that Town Council held the line on real estate taxes, just as they have for 13 of the last 18 budget years.

BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASES (Historical)		INCREASES
2007	17 Years Ago	No
2008	16 Years Ago	No
2009	15 Years Ago	No
2010	14 Years Ago	No
2011	13 Years Ago	No
2012	12 Years Ago	No
2013	11 Years Ago	No
2014	10 Years Ago	Yes
2015	9 Years Ago	No
2016	8 Years Ago	Yes
2017	7 Years Ago	No
2018	6 Years Ago	Yes
2019	5 Years Ago	No
2020	4 Years Ago	No (Slight Decrease)
2021	3 Years Ago	No
2022	2 Years Ago	Yes
2023	Last Year's Budget	Yes
2024	This Year's Budget	No

Chambersburg real estate taxes remain earmarked only for police and fire operations. Real estate taxes are not the source of funding for any other department or employee. In fact, the Recreation Bond Tax is specifically for paying off the 2016 Recreation Bond, and the Police Station Bond Tax is specifically for paying off the 2022 Police Station Bond(s), both of which are similar to mortgages. Therefore, one can reliably say, "No real estate tax will pay for any operations of the Borough of Chambersburg other than police and fire." It is important to acknowledge that real estate taxes are not used in support of most departments, operations, or employees; not parks or street maintenance or the Borough administration, are paid for using real estate taxes. The only use of these taxes are police and fire, and to pay off the 2016 Recreation Bond and the 2022 Police Station Bond. This has always been our financial plan for the Borough's use of taxes.

Further, Chambersburg receives no sales taxes, no liquor taxes, no business taxes, nor hotel taxes. These types of taxes are not an option under State Law. In other states, these other types of taxes are the foundation to the fiscal health of local government. In Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth denies them as an option to communities like Chambersburg. Town Council has a toolbox with one tool inside (real estate taxes) and it is a dull and poorly honed tool, but that is the only tool given to them by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In addition to the need to update the county tax system, through reassessment, the State's outdated tax system is full of poor rules and state mandates, which puts every municipality at risk of financial distress.

Chambersburg does receive income beyond the property tax. Ancillary miscellaneous tax revenue available to the Borough of Chambersburg amounts to: a wage tax set to a State mandated maximum rate; a local services tax (worker tax), which is set to a state mandated maximum rate; and a deed transfer tax (for real estate transactions), which is also set to a state mandated maximum rate. These so-called Act 511 taxes are important, but cannot be adjusted year-to-year based on need or economic realities. Therefore, they are minor, appreciated, and set by the state at a maximum rate since 1965.

Each year, the payment and receipt of tax revenues grows slightly as the value of Chambersburg real estate grows slightly. We have a mixed record for our wage tax and our worker tax. It seems that fewer borough residents are employed,

but those who have jobs seem to be making more income. Finally, there was no shift in the yields from transfer of property, which are sometimes better or worse in any given year.

There seems to be a quiet strength to the local economy, which allows us to be more confident in our future and saves our municipal budget in bad times. All indications are that the Borough is going to continue to thrive, better than many other towns.

From Jeffrey Stonehill:

Chambersburg Borough is an amazing municipal organization. We are blessed to have outstanding employees, a supportive and dynamic community, and a defined mission to provide the most services at the lowest cost to our citizens and businesses. We have weathered a variety of fiscal storms, each time coming out stronger and more resilient. We have seen political changes, socio-economic changes, and regional growth, all the while maintaining our hold on our local autonomy and a small-town atmosphere.

At no point have I been prouder to lead this organization than now. I am proud to represent our community on a regional, state-wide, and national stage. I talk often of our uniqueness among municipalities. As council leadership knows, last year's budget numbers, based upon funding everything, was not good. Only through careful prioritization, and reasonable cuts, did we end up with the budget that council approved.

Council will use this year to plan for significant tax challenges in the future for both the Chambersburg Police Department and the Chambersburg Fire Department. Also, planning for a new public works facility off Wayne Avenue.

The utility rate increases are necessary, but Chambersburg will continue to have lower rates than all our neighboring municipal and commercial utility systems. This includes an increase in the Electric Rate, a supply rate increase for Natural Gas, an increase in the Water Rate, and an increase in the Sanitation Rate. All these increases are significantly less than if our residents and businesses lived in the townships. Finally, I am recommending a necessary increase in the Ambulance Fee to keep pace with the cost of providing this important life-saving service.

BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAXES

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
POLICE TAX MIL	21	23	23	24	24	24	24	24	25	25
FIRE TAX MIL	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
AMBULANCE TAX MIL	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0
RECREATION BOND TAX MIL	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	2.5	2.5
POLICE STATION BOND TAX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
REAL ESTATE TAX MIL TOTAL	23.5	25.5	25.5	30.5	30.5	30	30	31	32.5	32.5

In February 2024, Moody's Investor Services reaffirmed Chambersburg's General Obligation credit rating as Aa3, which is quite good. They stated Chambersburg's rating "reflects its improved reserves and liquidity, moderately sized taxable base with below average income, and growing but still manageable debt burden. The rating also considers the Borough's financially sound enterprise funds. The Borough's preliminary fiscal 2022 results indicate another strong year with improved reserves across all operations."

Goals established by Moody's include material and sustained growth in reserves and liquidity, significant growth and diversification of the tax base, and the materially improved wealth and income of our residents. Unfortunately, there is not much the Borough can do to influence these goals. They also cautioned the Borough to avoid failure to adjust operations to accommodate new debt service, any structural operating imbalance, material growth of the debt burden beyond current expectations, and an inability of utility funds to cover related debt service. It is for these reasons, that tax and rate increases are unavoidable.

Council supports infrastructure investment to grow the borough's balance sheet's assets.

We should be strategic in the investment into new projects. I suggest that Council use 2024 to plan for the future, especially buildings and underground utilities.

No one likes a tax increase. However, I recommend that Council consider initiatives to permit future tax increases, when they become needed. To continue the Borough's investment in public safety, Franklin County must undertake reassessment, the update of the tax rolls, and they must begin this multiyear process immediately. Our antiquated tax system is devaluing each mil of tax value to a point where the Borough's Police Department and Fire Department have reason to worry about future viability. They are important core functions of our municipality. Further, the condition of public safety funding outside the Borough of Chambersburg is already of concern to those informed on such subjects. Volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance companies, and the Pennsylvania State Police, are not worthy substitutes for professional municipal operations.

In addition to Franklin County addressing the broken local tax system, Harrisburg must lift the Fire Tax caps in the Borough Code.

For over a decade, I have pointed out these issues will lead communities to defund local police and fire departments. We cannot accept the status quo at the expense of public safety. I ask our leaders to please seek ways to urge both the County Commissioners and the General Assembly to address our antiquated system. It inhibits development and over-burdens senior citizens. We are the last County in Pennsylvania to address this problem. If the system is not fixed, within three to five years, the Borough of Chambersburg will have to make dramatic and unnecessary cuts to police and fire, merely to avoid this issue.

The 2024 Budget is balanced and there is no tax increase and several utility rate changes.

We must recognize the changing demographics of our community. If our citizens are our customers, and I do not necessarily agree that government is like business, then we must meet our customers where they live and recognize who they are. We have made a full commitment to be a bi-lingual and multi-lingual organization. This is not a political statement, rather, it is a recognition that we must address the fact that so many of our daily interactions are with folks for whom English is a second language.

We must continue to make our customer service accessible to those who need the service. That is actually to the benefit of all. This is one reason our customer portal is such an important project. Customers rightfully expect utility payments and account lookup online.

Further, we need to work harder at developing the future Borough workforce. Times have changed and young people do not grow up to have the careers we have here at the Borough. Whether it is a part-time lifeguard, a full-time plumber or electrician, a police officer, or a firefighter, these are no longer prime attractive careers despite the fact that everyone at the Borough loves our jobs. We must cultivate new workers. That means planting seeds in the fertile minds of young people. If we fail, we will have no one to hire in the near future for what are some very complicated careers.

Finally, we must change the provincial and territorial view of Pennsylvania municipal government. We need to be one "Greater-Chambersburg" or we will each run our small municipalities into deterioration. Strength lies in intergovernmental cooperation and economy of scale. We must work together on transportation, storm water management, infrastructure, and police and fire services. That is a tough order for some. Chambersburg's suggested concept is pay-for-services. Chambersburg Borough is expert at providing services (i.e., utilities). Let us sell our services to your taxpayers. So far, this concept has been untested; not well received.

According to Emily Prevati at PA Post in 2022, "About 1,300 Pennsylvania communities don't have their own police departments and rely instead on state police. But they don't pay anything for the service – and it costs state taxpayers nearly half a billion dollars every year. State lawmakers have been talking for years about changing that, but still can't seem to agree on a way to do it. And the pressure has been building as the state has been tapering off diversions to the Pennsylvania State Police from the commonwealth's Motor License Fund, which is intended to fund infrastructure repair and maintenance." Former Gov. Tom Wolf had pitched a plan back in 2022 – which failed to get legislative approval – where municipalities that rely on state police would pay for services based on population. Under the failed proposal, towns with fewer than 2,000 residents would pay \$8 per person. Towns with more than 20,000 residents would pay \$166 per person. It would have generated over one hundred million dollars state-wide to fund the Pennsylvania State Police, who are the only law enforcement outside the Borough of Chambersburg in our surrounding townships.

Chambersburg Police, Fire, and EMS, can easily expand our services into the townships if needed. For example, we have suggested fire-prevention commercial fire code inspections in the townships, as has been done in the Borough for years. We have also discussed traffic enforcement on US 30 east and west of the Borough. Limited pilot programs can be arranged between municipal leaders.

In the end, we are so proud of our employees and our programs. We want to share them with everyone. We want Chambersburg to continue to grow and to help our neighbors solve their issues as well.

In our area, Chambersburg is the only municipality with a full service, round-the-clock, local police department. It is a professional and successful law enforcement organization. In 2016, Town Council appointed a new Police Chief, Ron Camacho who joined the Borough in mid-2016; a highly qualified law enforcement professional, he has installed a series of upgrades in the organization and their standard operating procedures since joining Chambersburg. In 2021, Council supplemented the Police Department leadership by adding a Police Inspector to the squad, in addition to the Chief and the Lieutenant.

Chambersburg 2024 Tax Rates

In 2024, it remains very expensive to operate a high performing police department, but unlike our neighbors who have chosen to rely on the Pennsylvania State Police, the Chambersburg Police Department plays a much more proactive role in public safety within the corporate boundaries of the borough. There is more that the Chief wants to do, such as address concerns about traffic in the borough, however, doing more will require more officers. Finally, more officers will create the need to adjust the Police Tax.

Chambersburg remains an incredibly safe community with very low crime rates, despite perceptions otherwise. In fact, with their intense crime-prevention and crime-solving tools, a record decrease in crime is the single biggest accomplishment of the Police Department.

Many township residents have no idea that they have no local police in their community. We have nothing but respect for the Pennsylvania State Police,

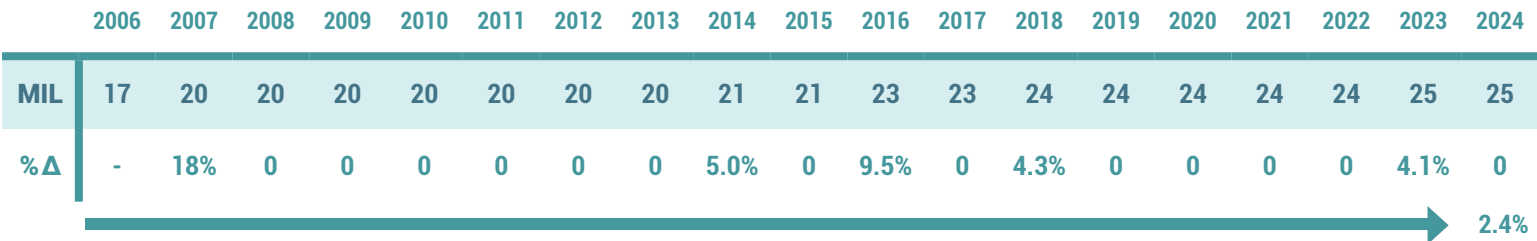
but they are not a local police force and they cannot provide the exact same response or services provided by the Chambersburg Police Department to the Borough.

Until 2014, 100% of the real estate taxes collected by the Borough were used exclusively to support the Chambersburg Police Department. In 2014, a small share was added to support the Chambersburg Fire Department, Station 1. While the Police and Fire tax rate grew in 2018, this remains the sole operational use of real estate taxes. Every dollar of designated revenue from the Police Tax is used wisely by the Police Department.

In 2022, the separate Police Station Bond Tax was added to the Borough tax invoice. In January 2024, this budget recommends no change in the Police Tax, which is 25 mil. Overall, since December 2006, the Police Tax rate has risen from 17 mil to 25 mil. When averaged out over the seventeen years, that is a growth rate of a little over 2.4% per year.

POLICE TAX RATE

In 2024, the Town Council approved that the Borough keep the Police Tax rate at 25 mil.



In 2024, it is estimated that the Chambersburg Police Department will cost \$440,185 more to operate than the revenues collected. This includes shifting police pension subsidies from utility departments to help the Police Department as well as the estimated yield of 25 mil of Police Tax.

The Chambersburg Police Department did an excellent job of controlling costs in their adopted 2024 budget. As a result, operational costs actually dropped by over \$400,000 allowing the adopted 2024 budget to be balanced. Much of this is as a result of smart equipment purchases. As a result of those changes, no police tax increase is needed yet. However, a one-year avoidance of a tax increase does not result in permanent avoidance and we anticipate the inflation among salaries and benefits alone, not to mention additional personnel, will result in some police tax increase as soon as 2025.

In 2024, the Town Council decided that the Borough will not adjust the Police Tax rate, currently at 25 mil.

In doing so, this means that since 2006, the Police Tax will have increased 8 mil in 17 years. An understandable rate of growth for such an important tax and such an important service.

The Borough once had no Fire Tax. In 2014, a so-called neutral arbitrator imposed upon the Borough and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #1813, a labor pact (the infamous "Kasher Decision"). Town Council was forced to add a Fire Tax. That tax was set at 2.5 mil and has remained unchanged. In exchange for this tax, and implementing the Kasher Decision, there was relative labor peace for the years following this decision. In fact, twice since then labor negotiations have avoided going back to interest arbitration for a resolution to impasses negotiating new collective bargaining agreements.

In 2022, the Borough and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #1813 reached a negotiated labor deal thereby avoiding arbitration. We were able to avoid the cost of arbitration (lawyers, expert witnesses, and the Borough paying 100% of the arbitration panel expenses) by accepting a compromise. The 2022 deal, executed in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, established a proposed labor contract to fix the wages and benefits between the Borough and our professional firefighters for the years 2022 through 2025.

Back in 2018, the Council added a small (½ mil) Ambulance Tax to supplement the existing Fire Tax; the maximum permitted by State Law (½ mil). In 2020, Town Council replaced that Ambulance Tax with the Ambulance Fee, a surcharge on water invoices.

Unfortunately, in 2020 the Borough concluded that the Fire Tax was insufficient to pay for the cost of the Fire Department's ambulance service. There is no legal way to raise it. The Fire Tax cannot exceed 3 mil and the now-repealed Ambulance Tax cannot exceed ½ mil under state law. In 2020, Town Council repealed the ½ mil Ambulance Tax in its entirety and adopted the Ambulance Fee surcharge on water invoices in its place.

The Borough is once again at a financial crossroads with respect to funding the Fire Department and its associated basic-lifesaving ambulance service. The cost of these operations, coupled with the inability to collect all ambulance use-fees incurred and a state-imposed cap on the Fire Tax, has left the Borough in a precarious fiscal position. Meanwhile, the cost of Fire Department operations continues to rise and the write-off of legitimate invoicing for EMS services continues to grow due to Medicaid/Medicare guidelines.

***There is no change in the Fire Tax for 2024
because an increase is not possible.***

State law places a limit on the Borough at a very low tax rate for the purpose of paying for the Fire Department. Not that we like taxes, but the 1965 State Law makes no sense. The Borough is prohibited from levying more than 2.5 mil (the 2024 equivalent of about \$544,260) in Fire Tax, but it must be used for apparatus/truck expenses and not for firefighters. Further, the Borough is prohibited from levying more than ½ mil (the 2024 equivalent of about \$107,975) for all the firefighter wages and benefits. In Chambersburg, firefighter wages and benefits cost the Borough well over \$4 million per year. Obviously, this artificial limit in place since 1965 does not envision a mostly paid and experienced professional fire department, as we have here in Chambersburg.

***There is no logical or practical alternative and staff is at a loss
how to pay for the Fire Department in the future.***

One alternative is to begin to rent the department to our township neighbors, assuming that their supply of volunteer firefighters disappears. This seems to be a logical assumption.

The long-term funding issue of the Fire Department is not identical to the issue of the Police Department. The main difference is that the Fire Department brings in significant revenue. Specifically, the Fire Department is a regional provider of Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service inside the Borough and in parts of the surrounding townships. While less than 50% of ambulance invoices are paid (and mostly by insurance), those payments are significant. In addition, the Fire Department acts as the Borough's Fire Code safety inspection service. Done on a tri-annual basis for most commercial businesses (and annual basis for some types of businesses), this service results in fewer fires or loss of life, and provides some income for the Fire Department.

While the revenue from the ambulance service and the Fire Code safety inspections is not enough to pay for the cost of operating the Fire Department, this and the Fire Tax combined are counted as a very respectable effort to close the gap in costs. The balance of the Fire Department operating expenses is closed by undesignated General Fund revenue above and beyond the Fire Tax. Every dollar of undesignated revenue used to

close the gap between these revenues and the Fire Department budget is one less dollar that can be used for parks or recreation, highways or streets, or other functions such as economic development or new initiatives in community development.

The cost of operating the Fire Department will rise significantly in 2024. This is in part due to higher costs associated with the replacement schedule for fire apparatus as we put aside money for future purchases. Vehicles for the Fire Department are rising exponentially in cost. This, plus the growing write-off for Medicaid/Medicare patients served by the Fire Department's ambulance service, are causing strain on department finances.

In 2024, it is estimated that the Fire Department and EMS will cost \$1,737,042 more to operate than the revenues collected. This includes shifting fire pension subsidies from utility departments to help the Fire Department as well as the estimated yield of ½ mil of Fire Tax permitted to be used for operations. There is no way permitted to raise the Fire Tax (approximately 7.9 mil more needed) to cover this deficit.

The Borough uses the Ambulance Fee to help cover the EMS portion of the deficit. If the Ambulance Fee was used to cover the whole deficit, it would be set to \$24.30 per month instead of \$11 per month as is approved for 2024. The approved Ambulance Fee is less than the allowance for uncollectable ambulance receipts as a result of Medicaid/Medicare federal rules.

In addition to the Ambulance Fee, if the Fire Department runs a deficit, it is commixed with all the revenue and expenditures in the General Fund. The General Fund miscellaneous revenue must cover it as it does with all the General Fund departments including the Police Department, the Recreation Department, Land Use & Community Development, and general highway, which are all mixed together pursuant to the State recommended chart of accounts.

The world of EMS is in such flux, we do not see any reason to not stay the course and give the process another year to unfold. Many believe the entire EMS system is on the verge of catastrophic failure.

FIRE TAX RATE

In 2024, the Town Council decided that the Borough will not change the Fire Tax rate, currently at 3 mil.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FIRE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
AMBULANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

Of the Fire Tax, 2.5 mil of the 3.0 mil may only be used for apparatus expenses, with only ½ mil for operations, per state law.

Recall, the Fire Tax does not come close to covering the cost of the department, and it cannot be increased. Even with the Ambulance Fee, the Fire Department is anticipated to run a deficit requiring the use of general revenues to cover additional expenses. We are lucky that our General Fund has enough undesignated miscellaneous revenue to close this gap. However, long term, we need to explore ways to increase funding for Fire and EMS. The system is truly broken.

RECREATION BOND TAX RATE

In 2024, the Town Council decided that the Borough will not change the Recreation Bond Tax rate, currently at 2.5 mil.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
(IN MIL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	2.5	2.5

POLICE STATION BOND TAX RATE

In 2024, the Police Station Bond Tax will continue at 2 mil.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
(IN MIL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2

Every year, due to slight changes in the value of the real estate in the Borough, the mil rate equals different dollar payment amounts, even if the mil rate is unchanged.

In Chambersburg, in 2024, the average single-family home has a Franklin County assessed value of \$18,492.50; obviously, that is the assessed value and not the single-family home market value.

Half of all single-family homes in the Borough have an assessed value higher, and half have an assessed value lower. Commercial, industrial and multi-family homes have different values.

According to Redfin.com, the average fair market value of all single-family homes sold in the Borough in 2023 was \$268,500, up an impressive 20% from the previous year. There were 201 homes sold year-to-date, almost three times the previous year.

When asked, some citizens wildly inflate the dollar value of the real estate taxes that they pay per year. The single-family home with the largest Police Tax bill each year pays \$2,930 per year in Police Tax versus \$437.30 paid by the average single-family home. Further, that home has a Fair Market Value of \$813,300 (with a Franklin County assessed valuation of \$117,200) and is therefore a unique Borough property.

Of all the single-family homes inside the Borough, half pay more than \$568.49 per year in Borough taxes, and half pay less.

No government buildings, schools, charities, churches, or township property owners pay any Police, Fire, Police Station Bond Tax, or Recreation Bond Tax on their property – average commercial or industrial property owners may pay more. In addition, for many folks, 100% of this cost is deductible on your Federal Income Taxes, returned to you in your tax refund every year. Please understand the importance of the SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction, and when a congressman talks of its elimination from Federal tax policy, understand the impact.

The other state mandated taxes are set by law and are not changed year-to-year. They include the Local Services Tax, which is a \$1 per week tax on workers inside the Borough; the Earned Income and Wage Tax, which is a ½ of 1% tax on wages (not investments or retirement benefits) earned by those who live inside the Borough; and the Deed Transfer Tax, which is a ½ of 1% tax when property inside the Borough is sold or transferred. Together, along with fees and fines, these categories make up the only revenues.

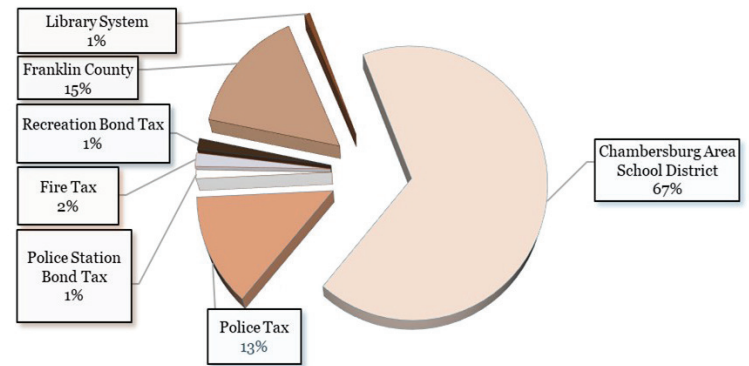
In addition, the Electric Department and the Gas Department make a Payment in Lieu of Gross Receipts Taxes (PILOTs) to the General Fund. If these two departments were private corporations, they would pay taxes to the Commonwealth; as such, they are tax exempt. So instead, they pay their taxes to support your General Fund (police, fire, ambulance, highway, and recreation) activities.

	2023	2024
Avg. Single-Family House Inside the Borough (Based upon mil rate and average assessed value)		
POLICE TAX (to the General Fund)	\$434.31	\$437.70
FIRE TAX (Split between Motor Equipment Fund & General Fund)	\$52.12	\$52.48
RECREATION BOND TAX (to pay off the 2016 Recreation Bond)	\$43.43	\$43.73
POLICE STATION BOND TAX (to pay off the 2022 Police Station Bond)	\$34.74	\$34.98
TOTAL (per year)	\$564.61	\$568.49

No change in tax rate – average home value changes year-to-year



Real Estate Tax Burden on Borough Property Owners:



Only 17¢ of every \$1 paid in real estate taxes will go to the Borough of Chambersburg. The balance, 83¢, will go to support the school district, the county, and the library system. In fact, 67¢ of every dollar goes to the Chambersburg Area School District. They send their own tax bill.

Bond Taxes

POLICE STATION BOND TAX		RECREATION BOND TAX	
2022	1.0 mil	2022	3.0 mil
2023	2.0 mil	2023	2.5 mil
2024	2.0 mil	2024	2.5 mil

The 2016 Recreation Bond paid for capital investment in a number of Recreation Department facilities including new playgrounds, tennis courts, a new roof and windows on the Rec Center, and a new state-of-the-art Aquatic Center. To fund the bond, which is a form of debt like a mortgage, council at the time imposed a special Recreation Bond Tax on all property owners who are not exempt from real estate taxes. The resulting assets built from the bond were added as community-owned assets to the Borough's balance sheet.

This use of debt to build asset value for the community is a corporate way of funding improvements. Further, dedicating a tax to pay it off is not dissimilar to when a homeowner takes out a mortgage. In 2022, the borough refinanced this debt to a lower interest rate. As a result, the annual debt payments dropped and a small tax decrease was possible for the Recreation Bond Tax.

In 2022, Town Council approved a new bond (actually two companion bonds) associated with the renovation of the Borough's 1971/1972 police station on S. Second Street. This new debt was used exclusively for that project, for the replacement of the roof on the old part of city hall (the 1930s addition) and the roof/historic clock tower on the original part of city hall (the Market House). Further, a new dedicated tax was established by the 2022 budget to pay off that bond. Construction of the renovated and expanded Police Station (as well as the clock tower renovation) is complete and the Police Department returned home in 2023. The ribbon cutting event was on September 20, 2023. The Police Station Bond Tax will continue until the debt for this project is paid off. The total rate is not anticipated to change for the duration of the payoff period.

The debt issued by the Borough paid for the Police Station Renovation Project and the Temporary Police Station Project both.

The Borough has used debt to invest in infrastructure, which is considered good debt, not to balance the budget. "Good debt is investment debt that creates value," says Eric Gelb, CEO of Gateway Financial Advisors and author of "Getting Started in Asset Allocation." The latest example is the sale of the 2022 Police Station Bond(s), which financed the construction of a new Police Station for our town. A dedicated real estate tax liquidates the bond, not to run the Police Department, but to pay for the construction loan and the costs associated with the Temporary Police Station.

Paying a tax for a bond issue, as was decided by Town Council, is not the same as paying a tax for the operation of the Borough. For example, it is a similar difference to opening a mortgage to buy a house or fix the roof, in contrast to using a credit card to pay the telephone bill. Debt should only be used to add asset value. The Police Station Bond Tax, the new tax that started in 2022, is not to pay for any Police Department operations. It will pay off, until September 1, 2046, the debt to build the new Chambersburg Police Station at City Hall and the Temporary Police Station expenses.

These projects will serve the community for generations and this is how it is done in business and industry; a recommended practice, which grows the value of corporations. With adoption of last year's budget, Council has now done this twice. First, with the 2016 Recreation Bond beginning in 2018, and then in 2022 with the 2022 Police Station Bond(s). Staff is committed to not using debt unless it provides asset value to the Borough.

The 2024 budget includes the initial planning for another large-scale construction project in the future. Over many years, the Borough has acquired space along Wayne Avenue to someday consolidate and relocate the public works, sanitation, sewer, water, and fleet operations of the Borough of Chambersburg. That site sits dormant (except for storage) awaiting a plan and approval from Town Council. In 2022, a small office building adjacent to this site, on S. Fourth Street, was renovated to be the field office of the Water & Sewer Department street crew. However, a plan exists for the main functions of this public works campus. In the 2024 Budget, there exists money to complete blueprints and to bid out construction of this important new project. The goal is to have a final bid for Council to consider in 2024, for construction likely in 2025.

In Chambersburg, our residents pay no dedicated Recreation Tax, no dedicated Highway Tax, and no taxes to support any of the borough's operations, utilities, or utility support departments other than police and fire. Our taxes are very limited, yet misinformation is abundant on this topic.

Until 2014, the Borough used exclusively 100% of the real estate taxes collected to support the Chambersburg Police Department. In 2014, town Council added a small share to support the Chambersburg Fire Department. In 2018, the Borough Manager recommended, and Town Council approved, an increase in the Fire Tax for use by the Fire Department and its emergency medical service as well as an increase in the Police Tax. The 2018 increase in the Fire Tax ($\frac{1}{2}$ mil) was reversed out in 2020, in order to shift Ambulance funding from this tax to a broad-based fee on utility invoices. In the 2020 Budget, the Borough Manager recommended repeal of the Ambulance Tax portion of the Fire Tax and Council agreed.

Within the Borough, all the real estate taxes collected are for the Police Department and the support of the Chambersburg Fire Department; none of this revenue is used to support any other department or operation. As of 2023, we will still only use real estate taxes to support police, fire, and to pay off the 2016 Recreation Bond and 2022 Police Station Bond(s). No real estate tax will pay for any operations of the Borough of Chambersburg other than police and fire. No other department, operation, or employee; not parks or street maintenance or administration are paid using real estate taxes.

Your Real Estate Taxes are Based on Your Assessed Value

The average single-family home in the Borough will pay \$568.49 per year (\$3.88 more than 2023) in real estate taxes to the Borough. Half will pay less. This is what the average single-family home inside the Borough actually pays per year before discount. Commercial properties may pay more. The assessed value is not fair market value. Township properties pay no taxes to the Borough.

*Visit the Franklin County Tax Assessment Office
to learn your property's assessed value at:*

272 N. Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

To check your home's assessed value online go to:

<https://fcgis.franklincountypa.gov/taxparcelviewer/>

*If your property is inside the Borough, click on your lot on the map.
Divide the number by 1,000 and then multiply that by 32.5,
for 32.5 total mils of Borough Tax*

Chambersburg Borough 2024 Utility Rates

There were utility fee increases approved in the 2024 budget.

Chambersburg has the lowest composite utility rates in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that is not going to change in 2024.

Throughout 2023, due to operating expense increases such as diesel fuel, natural gas, chemicals, equipment, supplies, wholesale power costs, and increased cost of paving and ditch repair, the Chambersburg utility departments saw all our local, regional, and state-wide neighboring utilities have significant percentage increases. Meanwhile, Chambersburg did our best to hold on to our incredibly low-cost utility rates.

In 2024, there will be a handful of increases in utility rates. That being said, at the end of the day, the municipal and commercial utility companies outside the Borough of Chambersburg have already, or will be in 2024, raising rates far in excess of anything contemplated by the Borough of Chambersburg. Therefore, despite the rate increases contained in this proposed budget, the Borough's utility invoices will actually be lower in proportion to township utility bills than they were in 2021.

The reality is that nowhere has inflation and supply chain issues more impacted the Borough of Chambersburg than in the provision of utilities.

Our amazing managers have developed rates that remain some of the lowest in Pennsylvania, but must rise in 2024 merely to keep pace with the rising cost of operations.

The Chambersburg Electric Department has invested in local generation over the last two years in a considerable way. This includes the recent completion of the Chambersburg Solar Center in Hamilton Township, an extension of the Landfill Gas to Energy facility contract at the Blue Ridge Landfill, and extensive maintenance and upgrade projects at the Falling Spring Generation Station and the Orchard Park Generation Station. These assets and facilities allow Chambersburg to control the cost of electricity by strategically shifting our needs back and forth between our own facilities and the outside regional electric grid operated by PJM. PJM is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia.

In 2023, the Borough-owned Falling Spring Generation Station, on Grant Street in downtown Chambersburg, shifted from being a PJM Network Resource, a facility dispatched to support the needs of the grid, to being a "behind-the-meter local resource." That is a generation facility that the Borough can strategically turn on to lower the cost of electricity during peak pricing for the purchase of wholesale power. This is a much more challenging operation, but should help mitigate the rising cost of electricity.

Despite all of these advanced strategies and controls, the cost of electricity keeps rising. So far in 2023, our neighboring investor-owned utility, West Penn Power, has received State Public Utility Commission (PUC) permission to raise their retail rates 16%. Secondly, West Penn Power had received permission for a second 16% rate increase in 2022 (for a total increase of 32% in the last year).

In response, Town Council directed staff to undertake a rate analysis study to plan for the first retail electric rate increases in over ten years.

That study concluded earlier this year and recommended an immediate overall 11.3% rate increase for all electric customers. That is the overall increase,

however, certain customers will pay more (and others less) because the consultants are distributing that proposed rate increase fairly and equitably across the different electric rate classes.

While we are proud to have one of the lowest residential retail electric rates in Pennsylvania, even with this major rate adjustment, we will continue to be able to offer that honor to our electric customers.

The new electric rates will be in place for January 2024 invoices for December 2023 electric use.



The 15MW Chambersburg Solar Center, on W. Commerce St., in Hamilton Twp, was completed in 2022 in partnership with Safari Energy, and sold to Aspen Power in 2023, provides affordable and reliable clean energy

Chambersburg Gas provides the lowest residential natural gas rates in Pennsylvania and that will continue in 2024.

However, while Borough customers are better protected than most others in the US, we will still see increased gas prices this winter due to changes in the wholesale market. Gas rates are made up of a Distribution rate and a Gas Supply rate. The Distribution rate pays for the operation of the Borough gas system, and has not risen for 13 years. The Gas Supply rate is a direct pass through of actual wholesale supply costs. It varies every month based on the actual cost of gas. The Borough Gas Department utilizes a portfolio approach to gas purchases to decrease cost volatility, which has helped with residents' costs. Nevertheless, we are still not immune to the wholesale gas market.

There is no proposal to increase the Borough's distribution cost for natural gas. However, as wholesale natural gas prices spike, this will impact customers' pass-through Gas Supply rate.

Furthermore, the Gas Department has seen another year of significant customer growth as they drive new gas lines into previously underserved neighborhoods. It seems everyone is learning that natural gas is a safe, efficient, and low-cost energy source for homes and businesses.

While the wholesale cost of natural gas is likely to rise in 2024, the cost of operations of the department will not necessitate any distribution cost increase.

Furthermore, our neighboring investor-owned natural gas utilities have already significantly increased their retail gas rates; further improving our standing as the lowest cost natural gas provider in the Commonwealth.

***Chambersburg has the lowest water rates in our area,
and that is not going to change in 2024.***

Throughout 2023, due to operating expense increases such as diesel fuel, chemicals, equipment, supplies, power costs, and increased cost of paving and ditch repair, the Chambersburg Water Department saw all our local, regional, and state-wide neighboring utilities have significant percentage increases. Meanwhile, Chambersburg did our best to hold on to our incredibly low-cost utility rates.

In 2024, the Water Department needed a rate increase to keep pace with expenses. This will be the sixth increase in seven years, and the series of small increases will likely continue for several years as water infrastructure improvements are made.

The Water Department made an increase of 3¢ per unit for 2024, which resulted in an increase for the average single-family house of \$2.10 per month in their water bill. The Chambersburg Water Department still has some of the lowest rates in the region, this proposed increase will vary based on several factors including weather, and home attributes. Some of our neighboring water systems pay 300% more than Chambersburg residents and businesses do for their water supply.

The Chambersburg Storm Sewer Utility has completed a four-year process to change their rate structure, as originally contemplated by the 2014 study that necessitated their establishment. In 2022, the utility switched what has been a flat rate, per sanitary sewer connection, to a rate based upon impervious area. This new methodology resulted in a change for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers (shopping centers, schools, churches, the hospital, etc.), which saw changes in their Storm Water Pollution Control Fee.

In 2022, single-family residential customers had no noticeable change in their fees. Under the old system, only single-family residential customers were paying a fair fee. Now, every type of property will pay their fair share based upon their relationship to the impervious area of a single-family residential home. Continuing in 2023, the rate will be expressed in single-family home "equivalent residential units" or ERU and will not change from 2024.

There is no planned rate increase for the Storm Sewer Utility. However, the discounts given to commercial, industrial, and institutional customers to ease the transition to the new ERU based system will be phased out at the end of 2023.

No more automatic discounts for these customers unless they earn the discount through better stormwater management practices.

In January 2022, the Storm Sewer Utility saw the ERU value being set at \$5 per single-family home equivalent. Therefore, the average single-family home saw no change in their Storm Water Pollution Control Fee as the flat fee was already \$5 per month. The results for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers became based on the size of their lot and their structures. For example, if your commercial building is the equivalent of five single-family homes, your rate increase was from \$5 per month to \$25 per month (\$5 x 1 sanitary sewer connection to \$5 x 5 ERU).

A discount is based on whether you have tried to mitigate your stormwater management on your property using best management practices (BMP). In 2024, the discount can be earned by contacting the Borough.

If you own a commercial, industrial, or institutional property in the Borough, you should call for more information on your ERU value now. Learn how to lock that discount in place, because in 2024 it starts only being offered to commercial, industrial, or institutional property owners who have actually installed BMP or similar measures on their property (or otherwise met qualification criteria). Finally, a residential customer discount program continues in 2024. Look for more information.

***Chambersburg has the lowest sanitation rates in our area,
and that is not going to change in 2024.***

Throughout 2023, due to operating expense increases such as diesel fuel, recycling, equipment, supplies, vehicle costs, and increased cost of tipping trash at the landfill, the Chambersburg Sanitation Department saw all our local, regional, and state-wide neighboring utilities have significant percentage increases. Meanwhile, Chambersburg did our best to hold on to our incredibly low-cost utility rates.

In 2024, the Sanitation Department needs a rate increase to keep pace with expenses. This will be the second increase in three years, and increases every other year or so should continue as inflation drives the cost of disposal higher. The goal is to remain the lowest cost of solid waste and recycling services in Chambersburg.

The Sanitation Department envisions a residential increase of \$3.00 per month (\$25 to \$28) and this budget is proposing a commercial rate increase of \$1.70 per cubic yard (\$13.30 to \$15). The Chambersburg Sanitation Department still has some of the lowest rates in the region; this proposed increase will keep pace with the commercial trash haulers who serve the townships.

Furthermore, the special services that are provided by the Sanitation Department, including the twice-annual bulky drop-off days, the annual e-waste recycling day, daily street-sweeping, and the expansive single-source commingled recycling, including glass, will not be eliminated. Recycling services cost the Borough extra money; they do not earn money. In fact, this type of recycling is neither required by law nor cost-efficient. However, council has always supported this expensive premium service. We have a contractor who we pay to find a place to recycle our single-source commingled recycling. The contractor pays (not sells) for our recycling to go to a recycling center somewhere in the region. This service keeps the recycled material out of the landfill, which could take it from us at a much lower per ton rate.

*Borough Personnel use toters for
Commingled Single Stream Recycling*



In 2020, Town Council introduced an Ambulance Fee on all water customer invoices. That practice will continue in 2024. On December 16, 2019, the Borough of Chambersburg adopted an Ambulance Fee by Local Law. Ambulance service is a service that the Borough maintains as ready-to-serve for the residents and visitors of the Borough. If there is a call for service at any home, business, church, park, or government building in the Borough, the Borough's ambulance service will be dispatched. A fee may be charged in exchange for the Borough Fire Department's ambulance service under State law. We provide basic lifesaving ambulance services for our community. There is a significant cost to having ambulances staffed around the clock and ready-to-serve the Borough.

This Ambulance Fee helps defray the costs of the ambulance service being ready-to-serve. It is not a tax, as under state law taxes can only be assessed on the value of real estate. With no other options available to Town Council beyond property tax increases, and with 24% of the town's assessed property value being exempt from paying the Police and Fire real estate tax, owners of taxable properties must bear the full burden of paying for public safety services. Proportionately, this burden falls most heavily on those least able to afford paying for the services: the elderly and those on fixed incomes who own real estate. Whereas, 100% of water customers pay a fee placed on utility invoices. This is a fee in exchange for being ready to provide a service. When our residents and visitors call for an ambulance, they expect one to respond. Even with this fee, the Borough spends more on ambulance service than all the revenue it collects from this fee, the other fees charged to ambulance patients, and the annual ambulance club, which is an optional charitable donation program.

For many years, the Borough has been prohibited from collecting certain fees invoiced to patients who are covered by Medicaid/Medicare. For example, each year the borough is forced to "write-off" as uncollectible, due to Medicaid/Medicare rules, over \$1.8 million (2022) in normal service fees that patients with third party insurance would have paid. This is in addition to almost \$300,000 per year in unpaid fees for patients with no insurance or unpaid deductibles or copays. All ambulance companies in Franklin County are experiencing the same financial problem with some finding it difficult to stay in business.

The Ambulance Fee is a ready-to-serve surcharge appearing as a flat per invoice fee along with every water service invoice.

Chambersburg permitted to charge a fee in exchange for a service. We charge fees for Recreation Department programs in the General Fund. We charge fees for the Code Office's Residential Rental Inspection Program in the General Fund. We charge fees for using the Borough's ambulance service in the General Fund.

Since the ambulance service writes off over \$1.9 million per year in these fees anticipated for 2024, due to Federal law, we believe it is legally sustainable to charge every water utility customer a flat fee in support of the ambulance service, which is in the General Fund.

Can we not raise utility rates and fees and pay for all police officers and firefighters in the General Fund? Unfortunately, no. The Borough cannot wholesale move funds from utilities, which are kept in separate accounts, to the General Fund to pay for fire, police, or parks. Further, we cannot charge a fee for regular Police Department or Fire Department operations in the General Fund. Finally, to raise a utility fee (i.e. water fees) not to pay for a utility service (i.e. water consumption) would be unfair to utility customers. Staff has determined that we should charge a fee for every service in the General Fund that we could reasonably ask for a fee. The ambulance service, in the General Fund, can have an additional surcharge to support it. This fee began in January 2020, modified in February 2020, and updated within 2023, and now with the 2024 budget.

This budget includes an increase in the Ambulance Fee from \$9.50 per month per water service customer to \$11.00 per month per water service customer.

All of the additional revenue from this increase in the fee will be given to support the BLS (basic life-saving) ambulance services provided by the Chambersburg Fire Department.

Chambersburg Borough Utility Customers Have the Lowest Composite Utility Rates in Pennsylvania and That Will Not Change in 2024.

The average Borough utility customer pays less for utilities than most customers outside the Borough. In fact, those residential customers with Borough gas and electric will save over \$1,000 per year in utility expenses, when compared to average natural gas and electric customers throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Borough natural gas, water, wastewater, electric, and sanitation rates are much lower than other municipal and private sector utilities. The Electric and Natural Gas utilities make an annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes to support the Police and Fire departments. Chambersburg Electric Rates to increase: For the first time in a decade, the retail electric rates will rise overall by 11.3%; some customers will see higher increases based on their rate class, heating type, and insulation.

No change to the Borough natural gas delivery rate since 2013.

(Average Home Pays \$804 per year)

The Borough electric rate will go up around 11.3% beginning in January 2024.

(Average Home Pays \$116.50 per month)

No change to the Borough sanitary sewer rate, same since 2012.

(Average Home Pays \$29.50 per month)

Small increase to Sanitation rates, but all the same services, including comingled recycling, plus one of the lowest rates in the region.

(Average Home Pays \$28.00 per month)

Small change to the Borough water rate. Increase of 3¢ per unit.

(In 2023, average family bill based upon consumption: \$21.35 per month)

(In 2024, average family bill based upon consumption: \$23.45 per month)

Chambersburg has the lowest monthly utility bill in the State of Pennsylvania.

Chambersburg is the largest public power system and the only Borough with a natural gas system in Pennsylvania.

Public Works Campus – Conceptual Design & Land Acquisition

In a transformational project for the neighborhood, the Chambersburg Sanitation Department purchased the old abandoned cold storage building on S. Fourth Street. This derelict and blighted structure was demolished in 2023, and the land will be incorporated into the new site of the Borough's future public works campus. The ARPA grant provided sufficient funding to secure the building, plan for and help pay for its demolition and the clearing of the site. Additionally, this location may also co-locate future stormwater facilities to alleviate chronic and repeated flooding on S. Fourth Street. Finally, the site may also provide a part of a future pedestrian trailhead connected to the Borough's Rail Trail, which now terminates at S. Main Street.

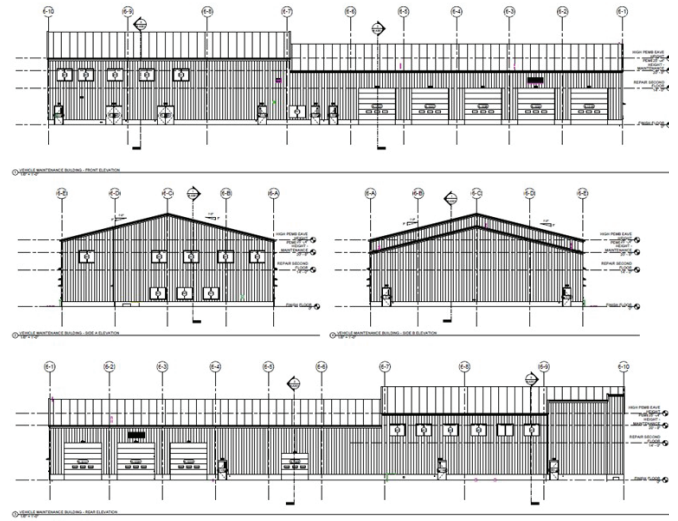


Site of Chambersburg Cold Storage Building before and after demolition.

The Cold Storage site at 1335 S. Fourth Street was purchased by the Borough on August 23, 2021 as part of the future redevelopment of the Wagner property, the planned site of a future public works campus. The planned purpose is for a Water/Sewer maintenance equipment building and materials storage. The demolition project was awarded July 11, 2022 to HubScrap Metals from Hagerstown, MD for \$677,999.50, paid for by the 2020 Bond issuance, which covered a variety of Water and Sanitation departments' Capital Improvement projects. This is different than the acquisition cost, which was covered by a federal grant (ARPA). The Borough also bought and renovated a small office building at 1332-1334 S. Fourth Street into field offices for the Water and Wastewater Department, across the street from the Cold Storage site.



Existing public works facility on Loudon St. dates from the beginning of the last century and has inadequate vehicle storage, maintenance bays, and is in the floodplain – would be unusable in an emergency.



New proposed vehicle maintenance facility off Wayne Avenue.

At the end of 2019, the Borough had the opportunity to acquire a vacant warehouse building at 366 Wayne Avenue to plan the relocation of the Loudon Street Sanitation Department, Motor Equipment Department, and Highway Department facility. The Engineering Department could move here too.

The site, once the home of Wagner Supply Depot, will be renovated over time to eventually replace the existing Borough public works facility located on Loudon Street at the corner of S. Franklin Street. The existing facility on Loudon Street is reaching the end of its useful life. Problems exist, including vehicle maintenance bays that are too small for today's modern trucks, poor equipment and materials storage, no room to grow, a cracked foundation, and is in the floodplain along the Conococheague Creek.

In addition to the 2021 purchase of the old Cold Storage Building, the Borough purchased an adjacent home at 342 Wayne Avenue, which has been demolished. Those two tax parcels have been added to the Wagner site. Finally, the Borough remains interested in other possible nearby parcels.

The Borough engaged SGS Architects/Engineers of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, has completed a facility review and according to their principal, Dennis Sowers, the existing warehouse will be less expensive to replace rather than renovate. A number of scenarios are being evaluated in order to accommodate the eventual uses as proposed by the Borough. The consultant was engaged in 2020, a building committee was established, and conceptual design was completed for Council in 2023. On Monday, October 30, 2023, Council received a conceptual plan for the construction of a new public works campus off Wayne Avenue.

The building purchase and design stage have had no impact on taxes. The site will provide a much-needed new home for the Sanitation Department and Public Works, and provides a site, which over time, might be expanded to add other adjacent tax parcels. It is also very exciting that at the end of this project, a new park near the Conococheague Creek will encourage access to the creek near the Southgate Shopping Center, where the Public Works garage is now located on Loudon Street.

The decommissioning of the Loudon Street facility and construction of the new Conococheague Creek Park would then occur in 2026 or 2027. The new Borough recycling transfer station nor any trash storage will not be at this Wagner site. Those type of functions, with trash and recycling, would not be appropriate at this location. We want the neighbors to know that we do not foresee this location housing, even on a temporary basis, trash or recycling. This facility will be used for offices, trucks, truck maintenance, equipment, equipment repair, and the storage of dumpsters and other Sanitation Department items.

PUBLIC WORKS CAMPUS

Finally, staff and the Building Committee have been in contact with adjacent property owners. We have explained the goals of the project and invited them to consider whether the sale of their property to enhance the project site might make sense. The 2024 Budget includes resources for continuing site development as well as to explore the purchase of adjacent parcels.

The budget includes a plan to borrow around \$3 million for more land purchases and a facility design.

Chambersburg Town Council is now being asked to commit to a final design process, a bidding of the project to develop fixed costs by the end of 2024, and a final funding plan with the 2025 budget.



ABOVE:
The former Wagner Supply Depot is owned by the borough as is the house on the right, now demolished, and the cold storage building to the rear, also demolished

LEFT:
Borough of Chambersburg Public Works Complex Conceptual Plan as of October 2023.

The Role of the Parking, Traffic, and Street Lights (PTSL) Advisory Committee

The PTSL Committee provides advice and guidance to Town Council. The Borough Manager, Engineering Supervisor, Electric Utility Director, the Finance Director and the Police Chief, support the Committee and the operations. The Committee includes up to nine citizen volunteers. Two of the members are sitting members of the Town Council. Two of the members represent the business community.

State-Owned Streets

Many of the streets inside the Borough of Chambersburg are owned and maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and are not subject to many local rules. Those include Second Street, Main Street, Queen Street, Lincoln Way, Loudon Street, Franklin Street, Wayne Avenue, Scotland Avenue, College Avenue, Edgar Avenue and others.

Traffic Signals

Traffic Signals are very expensive to install and require design by both civil and traffic engineers. To be approved, even on a borough-owned street, a traffic study needs to be completed demonstrating measured statistical need and submitted to the State. Even then, stop signs can often provide similar impact at less cost. Traffic signal timing is established by the traffic engineer and approved by PennDOT. In the last three years, the Borough has installed a new traffic signal timing system interconnecting traffic signals.

Stop Signs

Stop signs can only be installed after a traffic study and cannot be used to control speed. While they do not require State approval, a study justifying the installation must be submitted to PennDOT.

Speed Limits

Just as with most items, speed limits are calculated by traffic engineers. The Council can only adjust limits on Borough-owned streets and only within State-recommended guidelines.

Street Lights

The Borough maintains a street lighting policy and the electric department installs and maintains street lights on the public rights-of-way pursuant to that policy.

Traffic Calming

The Borough maintains a traffic calming policy and the Highway Department may install a traffic calming device if the neighborhood completes a petition process and the proposed installation meets the State suggested criteria for traffic calming devices. Finally, Council can choose which qualifying locations get installations based on funding. The policy and rules are on the Borough website.

How to Start the Process:

To begin a request for parking, traffic, or street light changes, contact your ward representative to discuss your concerns.
For more information, contact the Borough Secretaries Office at:

boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov



Southgate Shopping Center – Redevelopment Underway

The Borough of Chambersburg collaborated with the community to embark on a proposed long-term initiative to reclaim and redevelop the Southgate Shopping Center into a mixed-use residential neighborhood.

The neighborhood's ongoing involvement in the Southgate redevelopment process is vitally important to the success of this community development initiative. To codify the neighborhood's continued participation in the redevelopment project, the approved Southgate Zoning Overlay District legislation includes a provision that established a permanent advisory committee made of neighborhood volunteers, which would review all planned development going forward.

Currently, the Board of the Chambersburg Area Municipal Authority (CAMA) is seeking proposals to revitalize the entire shopping center, having been purchased from the previous owners in Ohio using a federal grant and no local tax money.



Southgate Shopping Center As Bought



Planned Meeting Place Greenway at Southgate



New Keystone Rural Health at Southgate



Planned Meeting Place Plaza at Southgate



Planned Water Street Linear Park at Southgate

In 2022, using a Federal grant, the Chambersburg Area Municipal Authority (CAMA) purchased the shopping center. Currently, they are the owners, and store rents cover the cost of maintenance. Keystone Health has plans to break ground on a new neighborhood healthcare facility in 2024. Most of the land will be resold to private third-party developers over time. Town Council and the CAMA Board are applying for grants to make neighborhood improvements, and some have already been awarded. Some land will be retained for parks and utilities. This important redevelopment project has no impact on local taxes.

On October 23, 2023, the Chambersburg Town Council approved the land development plan for Keystone Rural Health to build a new community medical center at the site of the former Gold's Gym building at the Southgate Shopping Center. They indicate construction will begin in 2024 and anticipate a grand opening around June 2025.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

KEN "HOCKEY" HOCK

I cannot believe 24 months have passed since being elected as your Mayor for the Borough of Chambersburg; a position that continues to be fulfilling. It remains a privilege to interact with this community in so many ways and I am still amazed at the team effort that residents, police, county commissioners, council members, our borough manager, and all the borough employees contribute each day to make a difference in this community.

I love attending our downtown events including Applefest, Old Market Day, IceFest, and our annual Martin's Potato Roll Drop on New Year's Eve. My view from the front row gives an illustrative insight into bringing these events to life.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies continue to be a moment of excitement and pleasure for me as I watch our community grow. Support and success breed success so I really want each of our local businesses to be successful. Having residents show their support is equally important.

Successful events and growth throughout our downtown would not be possible without a community where everyone feels safe. The Chambersburg Police Department continues to do what it takes to protect our community. I have witnessed our officers' commitment when interacting with the community and how their positive interaction fuels a positive outcome. I continue to ride along with officers and see that professionalism first hand. Their jobs are not easy and I love that I can witness that first hand and find a stronger appreciation for them and what they do. It was exciting to see the department return home to S. Second Street into their newly renovated police facility. Chief Camacho and all of our officers deserve gratitude and the very best for their unwavering commitment to keeping Chambersburg safe.

I can still say without hesitation that I truly love Chambersburg and I will continue to do what it takes to support our residents. I encourage everyone to continue to say "hello" to me when you see me around. If anyone is ever interested in contacting me, please follow my Mayoral Facebook page and send me a message. I look forward to continuing this journey with everyone as we continue to work together in making Chambersburg a great place to live! Here's to a great 2024!



POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF RON CAMACHO

Community Policing, Recruiting, & Traffic

By Ron Camacho, Chief of Police, and Meredith Dominick, Police Inspector

The Chambersburg Police Department remains committed to its mission towards growth and success in its continuous responsibility and desire to improve services to Borough residents, visitors, and agency personnel.

In 2023, the Police Department joined the ranks of 166 other police agencies in the Commonwealth to become an accredited police agency.

To put this accomplishment into perspective, there are approximately 1207 state and local law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Becoming accredited reinforces how important professionalism and transparency are to all the men and women, sworn and nonsworn, of the Chambersburg Police Department. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies evaluate and improve their performance. Remaining accredited emphasizes that professionalism and transparency, and how both are important elements in the profession of law enforcement. The department must meet the standards put forth by the governing body, PLEAC, to maintain this accreditation, every year.

The use of body worn cameras continues to be a component of technology that the department utilizes daily and remains an invaluable tool in regard to the department's transparency principles and philosophy. The police department has utilized the cameras to demonstrate instances of great police work, which often go unnoticed and unrecognized, as well as to allay complaints against officers, which have proven to be unsubstantiated.

The traffic enforcement strategy initiated in 2022 will continue in full force in 2024. This year, the goal will be to revise and improve upon the strategy and include a statistical data review of traffic collisions in the borough, to include cause, and to conduct targeted enforcement in the identified area of collision hotspots, (areas of concern and frequency). The input of citizens remains an important factor in identifying needs and concerns.

This year, the Department hopes to expand its use of the APEX, the state-of-the-art virtual reality (VR) simulator, to include and extend training to other departments in the borough. This will allow them to utilize the simulator and expand on their knowledge and skill sets using realistic life scenarios.

During 2023, many department members completed undergraduate and graduate-level degrees, and more members are on track to receive college degrees and command school endorsements in 2024.

The department also embarked on a new endeavor and embraced a new philosophy which focuses on the wellness of its officers. The department joined efforts with Performance Protocol and has offered coaching opportunities to CPD officers. Performance Protocol focuses on fostering resilience and a healthy mindset among officers. Through coaching sessions, officers can proactively address stress and burnout, which can result in a reduction in stress-related incidents and improve mental health and job satisfaction. With so much negative press in the news regarding law enforcement and all the things law enforcement is doing wrong, Chambersburg embraced that negativity and turned toward what many in the public had been crying for: officers who have strong emotional intelligence and who are more well-rounded and empathetic in their work. What a great way to embrace those wants by offering coaching so officers could become stronger and healthier in their lives so they can become the best in their profession.

Once again, the Department anticipates another Lexipol Gold Award for policy management and best law enforcement agency practices. This Lexipol Gold Award lends itself to the Department's accreditation status.

In October 2023, the Department made its much-anticipated return to its home on S. Second Street after its 2-year hiatus on Orchard Drive. Members of the Department were excited about the homecoming to a state-of-the-art police facility and to be back downtown among the buzz and excitement that downtown brings. The return was just in time for many of the fall events including the annual Christmas parade!

The department was humbled, overwhelmed, and grateful once again for our community's continuous support through its numerous donations of food, snacks, and various goodies. When running from call to call, sometimes having that extra snack already prepared and on hand, makes it easier for officers who may not have time to enjoy a formal meal break. Over 50 local businesses and citizens donated food items and provided continued support and thanks for a job well done in 2023. Our jobs are easier with the support of our community!

Also, several local businesses donated monetary funds to be used to support and offset the cost of the department's K9 program, which has an ever-growing cost, but is certainly well worth the expense.

August was a busy month for the department. On August 1st, the department revealed its newly purchased Community Policing, Recruiting, and Traffic vehicle. This vehicle was purchased through donated funds from area businesses and private citizens in the community. The vehicle was identified as a need for the department but its cost burden could not be placed on the back of the taxpayer. In an effort to think outside of the box, the vehicle, its markings, and upfitting of equipment came as the result of donated monies. It was officially unveiled at the department's first endeavor with National Night Out, a special night where the community, stakeholders, and the police department engaged in activities and meaningful conversations. It was a wonderful night and we look forward to it again. Our planning for 2024's event has already begun.

Upon discovering the need for the Community Policing, Recruiting, and Traffic vehicle, several community members believed that a foundation should be formed to meet the needs of the police department for needed items which fall outside of the responsibility of the taxpayer and their tax dollars. The creation of such a foundation would allow for monetary donations that could provide for new agency equipment and service support to offset capital expenditures. In late October, the Chambersburg Community Police Foundation was formed and launched its presence in the community. The Foundation's first endeavor was to assist with the Holiday with Heroes Event, commonly known as Shop with a Cop. This event paired a school aged child with a police officer or firefighter from the borough. The pair shopped at a local business and allowed the child to have a Christmas that they may not have otherwise been able to have. It was a successful event and both departments hope to have another event like it, next year.

The department will continue its rollout Public Safety Announcement (PSA) videos in 2024. These PSAs will provide public safety information to the community and feature many CPD Officers in the published videos. These videos will focus on pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and property theft awareness as well as aggressive driving, and the consequences of leaving vehicles running and unattended.

The department had a successful 2023 and looks forward to an even better 2024!



New Police Station Construction & Ribbon Cutting



FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

CHIEF DUSTIN L. ULRICH, CFO

Call Volume Continues to Grow

The Chambersburg Fire Department (CFD) personnel continued the department's mission in 2023 to provide high quality emergency medical service, fire suppression, fire prevention, fire safety training, and fire code enforcement services for the protection and enhancement of life and safety for those who live, work, and visit our hometown.

Currently, the Department has a staffing of twenty-five, full-time career firefighters and five part-time firefighters that are cross trained as emergency medical technicians. They are led by a Borough Fire Chief/EMS Director, Assistant Fire Chief/EMS Director, and four Fire Captains. The Department also has a volunteer Deputy Fire Chief in addition to the two career chiefs. Having a highly trained, mission driven, staffed department allows us to provide a quick response and arrival to any location within the Borough. In most cases, from the time of dispatch to the time that a fire or EMS unit arrives is around four and a half minutes on average to any location within the Borough. This prompt response delivers quick fire extinguishment before any major damage can occur as well as provides essential lifesaving medical care when time is critical.

Calls for emergency assistance continue to show a steady increase over the past ten years for the department. In 2023, the department will have responded to over 6,200 EMS, fire, and rescue incidents making it the busiest department in the County. Basic Life Support emergency responses account for a substantial amount of the overall call volume each year. In 2023, there were 4,400 responses handled for emergency medical services alone. Many of these calls are attributed to the amazing growth of health care and nursing facilities in the Borough. Unfortunately, the emergency medical system across the state is in dire need of revitalization. Many mandates are set forth for organizations and municipalities that limit the dollar amount insurance companies surrender as payment. In 2018, House Bill 699 passed allowing the Medicaid reimbursement to increase from \$120 to \$180 per call. Additionally, an outdated payment system for Medicare reimbursements went up slightly to a maximum payment of \$325 per call. Unfortunately, this minimal reimbursement only covers a fraction of the true cost of an ambulance transport. Each year the department must write-off as uncollectable funds, due to the Federal limitations on billing, as well as many private insurances setting lower reimbursement criteria for emergency incidents, almost \$1.7 million in legitimate fees and placing the financial burden on the department and the municipality. Though the EMS system for many

FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT CONTINUED . . .

agencies in the County has an uncertain outlook due to staffing retention and financial limitations, it is imperative that the Chambersburg Fire Department stay on course and continue to provide these necessary, basic lifesaving services to the community.

CFD is extremely proactive and takes great pride in fire safety and prevention education. Prevention is the best practice for early detection and to prevent fires from occurring or becoming large enough to cause a significant loss. Another facet of our department is to provide commercial businesses with routine fire code inspections. Our triennial inspections ensure fire safety in our commercial establishments to area residents and visitors. CFD certified inspectors inspect and permit approximately 1,400 commercial businesses every three years. Additionally, the Department partnered with the American Red Cross to provide and install the proper amount of smoke alarms that include ten-year lithium batteries. For the past five years, this valuable program has allowed the fire department to install over 800 smoke alarms in residential properties within the Borough, at zero cost to the resident. Another crucial risk reduction activity is the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. In 2019, CFD paired up with the gas department to provide residences with carbon monoxide detectors. These life saving devices are distributed at no cost to those residents who have an attached garage or a fuel burning appliance. To take advantage of the smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, free address signs, or child safety seat programs, please contact the department at 717-263-5872.

Across the nation, the public safety field is in crisis. In the 1970s, it was estimated that there were over 300,000 volunteer firefighters within this state. Currently, it is believed to be fewer than 30,000 active members at departments across the commonwealth. This substantial decrease is felt locally in Franklin County as the fire departments are struggling with recruitment and retention of both volunteers and career staffing. Though there are many factors that could be contributed to the decline, there are very few viable solutions to reverse the effects that are being felt. In the borough, these declining numbers are very

concerning for fire department leadership in regards to rapidly deploying adequate staffing numbers on fire emergencies and protecting the lives and property of the community. National studies have been conducted to determine how many properly trained and equipped firefighters should be on the scene to conduct all of the necessary assignments on a small residential house fire. Recommendations from the National Fire Protection Association study (NFPA 1710) calls for fifteen trained firefighters on the scene within eight minutes after dispatch. Unfortunately, this recommendation is not always feasible with the extended response times from mutual-aid. The decline in volunteers not only affects fire departments, but also EMS departments as many agencies are struggling to staff ambulances.

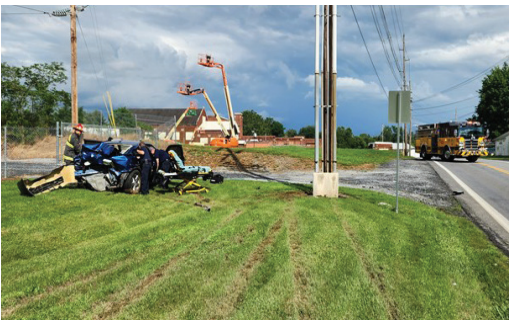
Each year, the Department focuses on available alternate means of funding for equipment to be as fiscally responsible as possible. The department was fortunate enough to receive over \$1.5 million in Federal and State grants since 2010. In 2023, this successful practice of funding continued when the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's Office awarded the Chambersburg Fire Department a little over \$97,000 in grants. CFD utilized these funds toward the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, firefighter ballistic vest, fire prevention equipment, and gym equipment.

Looking into the future, the Department and Borough leadership will start to research and plan for the replacement of the McKinley Street Fire Station. Built in 1959, the station has had significant structural issues over the years and the cost of maintenance has drastically increased. The focus would be to start the land purchase and design in 2025.

In all assurance, the Borough of Chambersburg Fire Department will continue to meet the future needs and services to the residents with both professional career and volunteer staff. All of the officers and members of the department look forward to serving you in 2024 and invite anyone to stop in and visit your local fire department.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CHIEF	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
CLERICAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
FIREFIGHTERS	21	22	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	24	25	25	25	27	25	27*

*anticipated





DEPUTY BOROUGH MANAGER PHIL WOLGEMUTH

Chambersburg to Host ServSafe Manager's Classes



In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Borough of Chambersburg administers and issues Retail Food Facility Licenses and inspects 212 food service establishments in the Borough for compliance with the Pennsylvania Retail Food Facility Safety Act and the Pennsylvania Food Safety Act, which require food service establishment employees to be ServSafe certified.

ServSafe is an educational program that was developed by the National Restaurant Association. The goal of the program is to educate food service establishment workers about food safety. A ServSafe Certified Food Protection

Manager is required at any facility where food production is being done and the operation is open to the public, regardless of whether a fee is charged for food service.

The Borough is proud to offer ServSafe Certified Food Protection Manager Classes at Borough Hall, which is located at 100 S. Second St. in Chambersburg. One-day classes are offered throughout the year in both English and Spanish, with an exam proctored at the end. Participants are required to pay costs associated with the class, book and exam.

For more information, please visit the Borough website at www.chambersburgpa.gov. From the front page, click on the Transparency link and then scroll down to ServSafe Certification.

You can also contact Jody Mayer at 717-251-2465 or jmayer@chambersburgpa.gov.

Why Underground Utilities Are Fixed Before Streets

As noted throughout this report, the Borough owns and operates public utilities, including electric, gas, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water, that serve its residents and businesses. Maintenance of these facilities and distribution systems are managed through the Capital Improvements Plan and fiscal year budgets that support an almost never-ending list of projects. Many of these projects involve streets, where excavation and patching are necessary to allow utility department personnel to repair and replace underground distribution system pipes and supporting structures. This work can be disruptive for vehicle operators, leading some to believe that Borough streets are always under construction. That is certainly not the case and there is a good reason for this work to be done when it is.

While our goal is to repair potholes as quickly as possible, it is helpful when vehicle operators report the location of failed street patches to the Borough Customer Service Center.

The center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, and can be reached at: 717-263-4111 or servicecenter@chambersburgpa.gov.

Borough streets sometimes seem like they are always under construction. That is typically because there is a long-standing practice to have underground utilities fixed months or years before the final street is reconstructed.

It has been a practice for Borough utilities to repair and replace their distribution systems under streets before those streets are reconstructed. While it does not guarantee that additional system maintenance won't be necessary after the street is reconstructed, it lessens the chance of excavating newly paved streets to make repairs. As such, a temporary patch is installed after streets are excavated to make utility system repairs. These patches can make the street surface uneven and noticeable for vehicle operators. Sometimes the temporary patches fail, creating potholes that need to be repaired.

After underground utilities are fixed often a temporary patch is placed over the ditch until the time comes, sometimes months or a year or two later, to finally reconstruct the cartway (roadway) of the street. Folks often think those temporary patches are the permanent ones, and complain because their quality is substandard. We know. Other towns do not have our system of coordinating subsurface utility repairs with street resurfacing.



In 2023, Chambersburg finished the reconstruction of Center Street after three years of work.

WATER & WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

LANCE ANDERSON, WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITY MANAGER



Customer Service Lines



*Typical Water Service Line Picture
Received from a Customer*

In Spring 2023, all water customers were mailed a letter requesting that their water service line material be provided to the Chambersburg Water Department, and various avenues were provided to complete this request. Approximately 1,000 customers texted, emailed, or called Water Department staff, and this information was inventoried.

Thank you to all who participated in this necessary undertaking in advance of a Federal and State regulatory change that takes effect this October 16, 2024. In the near future and for years to come, Water Department staff will continue to collect the necessary information in order to comply with the regulatory requirement to inventory all customer service lines within a community water system's service area. This is a significant undertaking, which your cooperation will make much smoother to complete.

What Not to Flush

When you use your sink, toilet, shower, washing machine or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the Borough sewer system. Our sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. Many materials frequently flushed or poured down the drain can damage the sewer system, can cause sewer backups in your home, can cause overflows into the environment leading to health hazards, and can cause damage to equipment at the treatment facility. Every property owner connected to the Borough sewer system can be a potential contributor to sewer problems, and a potential victim of those problems.

DON'T FLUSH THIS

Basically, the only thing you should ever flush down a toilet is human waste and toilet paper. Here is a list of some things to keep out of the toilet:

- Disposable Diapers
- Personal Care Wipes (even those marketed as "flushable")
- Feminine Products
- Cotton Balls and Swabs
- Unused Medications (can be disposed of at Borough Hall)
- Condoms
- Cleaning Wipes of Any Kind (even those marketed as "flushable")
- Facial Tissue, Napkins, and Paper Towels
- Bandages and Bandage Wrappings
- And Many More Items

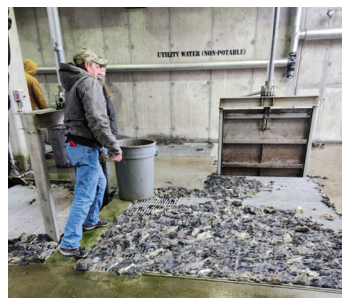
Just because the package says "flushable" doesn't mean it's true. Many items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper, and they could wind up clogging pipes and tangling pumps causing messy sewer backups into waterways, streets, businesses, and homes. Unfortunately, many of these items marketed as "flushable" as well as other materials noted above are found in our system in great abundance.

Removal of these materials at the treatment plant is essential for the protection of downstream processes and equipment. Each week, a bar screen at the beginning of the wastewater treatment process removes approximately 6,000 lbs (3 tons) of material from incoming raw sewage and that amount continues to increase following the covid pandemic.

PFAS Testing

The Chambersburg Water Plant has participated in all past Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) water testing analysis programs dating back to 2002. This September, the water plant will be submitting water samples to a third-party accredited laboratory for analysis of specific parameters that EPA identifies as unregulated contaminants that it would like more background information on prior to issuing regulatory limits for. The current round of testing parameters includes several PFAS chemicals, more commonly known as "forever chemicals", due to their persistence and resilience against breaking down in the natural environment. In advance of the UCMR5 September testing schedule, PA Department of Environmental Protection is requiring that community water supply systems begin testing for two (2) specific PFAS chemicals on a quarterly basis in 2024, beginning January 1, 2024. This quarterly testing has begun at the Chambersburg water plant. In advance of this quarterly testing requirement, previous PFAS samples were collected and analyzed in 2023 and the results were determined to be non-detectable for the specific PFAS chemicals tested.

Chambersburg is extremely fortunate that its 18.25 square miles of source water supply watershed is heavily forested, with no commercial, industrial, or agricultural activity. Chambersburg has long-established working relationships with Pennsylvania Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat Commission, and PADEP to continually monitor, improve, and protect its source water supply and watershed. This factors heavily into such synthetic chemicals as PFAS not being an issue to the water supply for Chambersburg.



Wipes Cleanup Due to a System Clog



Grease Clog in a Residential Sewer Pipe

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Additionally, grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property and business owners and the Borough as well. Never pour grease in your sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking. It comes from meat, lard, oil, shortening, butter and margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products. When grease washes down the sink, it sticks to the insides of the pipes that connect your home or business to the Borough's sewer. It also coats the insides of the Borough's sewer pipes. Restaurants are a significant source of grease in the sewer system.

It is not uncommon for grease to build up until it completely blocks sewer pipes. A grease clog can create difficult and expensive maintenance problems for both the Borough and private property owners. Blocked sewer pipes can cause raw sewage to back up into your home or business, or overflow into streets and the environment. To combat grease buildup, Borough personnel routinely (and in some cases weekly) flush sewer mains in order to prevent blockages. In 2024, Borough personnel will also routinely inspect grease traps at area restaurants to verify compliance with the Borough's Grease Management Program.

Remember, anyone who uses the Borough Sewer System should be responsible for what they flush or pour down drains.



Treatment Plant Bar Screen



STORM SEWER SYSTEM

ANDY STOTTELMYER, STORM SEWER UTILITY SUPERVISOR

Green Street, Green Towns

The 2023 construction season was the busiest to date for the Storm Sewer Utility. Necessary improvements were finally completed to the Mill Alley walkway located downtown between Main Street and the Chamber's Fort Park.

We also replaced approximately 780 feet of concrete box top prior to road re-paving on Vine Street. When undergoing construction we were able to salvage old box tops and replace approximately 186 feet along Wood Alley as well.

In June of 2022, Town Council approved an agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a Green Streets, Green Towns, Green Jobs grant in the amount of \$220,000 for the Chambersburg Rail Trail Stormwater Management project. The scope of work for this project includes the construction of five stormwater best management practices that will be located between Hood Street and the Rail Trail. The best management practices will disconnect direct stormwater discharge locations and will capture and provide water quality benefits before it enters the Conococheague Creek. The project, which will result in 40,000 pounds of sediment reduction per year, was enhanced by the hiring of FlockWorks to provide guided goat grazing to clear overgrown land along the banks of the Conococheague Creek adjacent to the Rail Trail.

Also, the Storm Sewer Utility worked with David H. Martin Excavating to complete the South Main Street Stormwater BMP Implementation project. The project involved the conversion of an eroding stormwater conveyance into a vegetated swale that helped to stabilize the embankments of the conveyance, as well as provide significant water quality benefits. The scope of work also included the installation of rock aprons, erosion control matting, as well as shrubs and other plantings in order to help with embankment stabilization. Due to the approximately 432 acres of upslope drainage area to the stormwater conveyance, the project resulted in over 80,000 pounds of sediment reduction per year. The project was funded with a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant in the amount of \$200,000, with the remaining amount matched by the Storm Sewer Utility.



*FlockWorks Guided Goats
Grazing Along the Rail Trail*



*South Main Street Storm Water
Best Management Practices
Implementation*

In 2024, the Storm Sewer Utility will release bids in order to hire a contractor to begin an inspection of the subsurface pipe network. This will enable us to better plan for future capital improvements to the storm sewer system. Bond financing will be secured to finance capital improvements projects planned for 2024, 2025, and 2026, including the South Fourth/Fifth Street Storm Sewer System Improvements Project. Other 2024 projects include the construction of a fishing pier and canoe and kayak launch that was funded by the PA fish and Boat Commission through the Boating Facilities Grant program as well as storm sewer improvements along Pleasant Street that were funded through the Franklin County Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance program. We will continue working with GMS Funding Solutions, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Federal Emergency Management Agency on various improvements that relate to the Southgate Shopping Center Redevelopment project. Finally, we will bring back the goats by again hiring FlockWorks to provide guided goat grazing along the banks of the Conococheague Creek and other areas requiring maintenance.



NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

JOHN LEARY, GAS UTILITY DIRECTOR

Safety Through Capital Investment

The Chambersburg Gas Department believes that keeping Borough residents safe is our top priority. We are proud that Chambersburg has had zero reportable gas safety incidents within the past 30+ years. While that is a tremendous accomplishment, we still believe it is essential to continue to improve our system safety.

Risk assessments of the gas system have shown that the replacement of old cast iron gas mains and unprotected steel service lines is our top priority to ensure continued safety. Many of these pipelines are over a hundred years old, and the cast iron is brittle and susceptible to cracking. Since 2000, the Borough has replaced more than 21 miles of its 26 miles of cast iron pipes, a rate higher than the national average for cast iron replacement. During this time, our leak rate has trended much lower, demonstrating the benefits of our program.

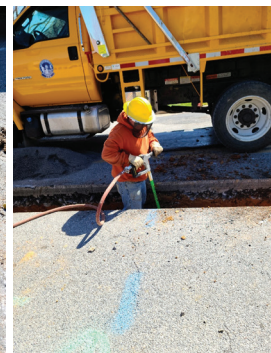
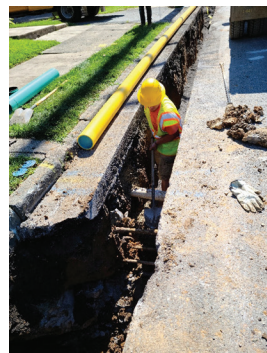
Just under five miles of legacy cast iron remain; however, these lines will be cost prohibitive to replace due to their location under state roadways and in downtown areas. Absent funding assistance, it is estimated that it would take an additional 10 to 15 years to replace these lines, and would require substantial rate increases that would negatively affect residents and businesses in the Borough, particularly those residents with lower and fixed incomes.

Thankfully, the Borough has been blessed to receive a \$5.2 million Federal Grant from the US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration for the replacement of this old pipe. These lines will be replaced with polyethylene plastic pipe, which will never rust.

This grant will enable the Borough to continue our pipe replacement program at an expedited pace. With the additional funding provided by the grant program, we anticipate removing all of our cast iron gas mains, and unprotected steel service lines, within five years, rather than the 10-15 years previously expected.

Additionally, because the pipe replacement will be paid for by the grant program, instead of rate increases from Borough customers, we will continue to see extremely low gas rates in the Borough. Borough residents have paid the lowest price for natural gas in the State of Pennsylvania for many years. This trend is expected to continue for years to come. Receipt of the grant should preclude the need for gas rate increases well into the future.

We anticipate receiving approval from DOT to begin this project in the first quarter of 2024. At that time, we will begin with work on S. Fourth St., Philadelphia Ave., Rife St., and Duke Alley. The total project is expected to last for several years, and will also include work on S. Second St. and E. Queen St.





CHAMBERSBURG AQUATIC CENTER INFORMATION

Membership Rates

Hours of Operation for Season Pass Holders: Monday through Friday: Early admittance, 12-1 PM through 8 PM
Saturday and Sunday: Early admittance, 11:30 AM-1 PM through 8 PM

Category	2024 Rates	2024 Boro Rates
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Family Memberships

Family Membership Regular Season	\$415	\$269
- 10% Family discount by May 26	\$373.50	\$242.10

Adult Memberships

Adult Membership Regular Season	\$209	\$155
- 10% Adult discount by May 26	\$188.10	\$139.50

Youth Memberships

Youth Membership Regular Season	\$185	\$135
- 10% Youth discount by May 26	\$166.50	\$121.50

Sr. Citizen Memberships

Sr. Citizen Membership Regular Season	\$175	\$125
- 10% Sr. Citizen discount by May 26	\$157.50	\$112.50

Membership Additions

- Grandparent/Nanny	\$145	\$105
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Must accompany a pass holder or pay the daily rate accordingly.

***To receive a discounted rate, payments MUST be received by close of business (5 PM) on the indicated deadline date.**

*Financial Assistance provided to Franklin County residents only who are income eligible. Call the Recreation Office for full details.

*Military Benefit: Active Military Personnel and dependents showing proper ID receive 10% off a regular season membership rate.

Daily Rates

Hours of Operation for Daily Admission: 1-8 PM, Sunday- Saturday

Category	2024 Daily Rates	*2024 Daily Rate (Franklin County & Shippensburg Residents)	*2024 Daily Rate (Chambersburg Borough Residents)
Infants UNDER 1 yr of age	Free	Free	Free
Over 42" Sat/Sun	\$18	\$13	\$9
Over 42" M-F	\$16	\$13	\$9
Age 1+/Under 42" Sat/Sun	\$12	\$9	\$6
Age 1+/Under 42" M-F	\$10	\$8	\$6
Sr. Citizen (Ages 60+) Sat/Sun	\$11	\$8	\$6
Sr. Citizen (Ages 60+) M-F	\$10	\$8	\$6
Twilight (After 5 PM)			
Age 1+/Over 42" Sat/Sun	\$12	\$9	\$6
Twilight (After 5 PM)			
Age 1+/Over 42" M-F	\$11	\$9	\$6
Twilight (After 5 PM)			
Age 1+/Under 42" Daily	\$10	\$8	\$5
Chaperone/Non-Swimmer Sat/Sun	\$11	\$8	\$6
Chaperone/Non-Swimmer M-F	\$9	\$8	\$6

Special Days / Events

-Teen / Adult Night	\$6	\$6	\$4
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Discount Pass Booklets

- Book of 10 passes	\$145
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*To qualify for these daily rates you must provide proof upon entry (see website for details) that you reside within one of the following zip codes or pay the highest applicable rate:

17201 17210 17217 17220 17222 17225 17232 17236 17244 17247 17251 17254 17257 17263 17268 17272

17202 17214 17219 17221 17224 17231 17235 17237 17246 17250 17252 17256 17262 17265 17271

For complete details of Aquatic Center Memberships and Rates, visit our website at www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec_dep



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM! @CburgRec



FOLLOW & LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! @ChambersburgRecreationDepartment



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @ChambersburgRec



CHAMBERSBURG AQUATIC CENTER INFORMATION

Category	2024 Rates	2024 Boro Rates
----------	------------	-----------------

Parties During Operational Hours

Standard Pool Party

\$149	\$129
-------	-------

- All parties include ONE coupon good for a free small ice cream at the concession stand which must be used during current season.
- 3 hours includes up to 30 people, children under age of 1 not included in this count.
- Each additional person, \$3 per person. Max amount of 50 people per party. May not schedule the same group back to back to create a 6 hour party package.
- Discounts at concessions (food options provided with reservation form)
- Parties may be scheduled beginning at 1 PM and be held in 3-hour increments. All parties must end by 7:45 PM.
- Picnic tables near mini golf (not under pavilion).
- One umbrella per table. Each table seats 8.

Pool Party with Pavilion Rental (Whole)

\$215	\$205
-------	-------

- Includes all Pool Party options, but with tables under the pavilion instead of near mini golf. Seats approx. 75

Pool Party with Pavilion Rental (Half)

\$179	\$169
-------	-------

- Seats approx. 35

Pool Party with Event Room

\$189	\$175
-------	-------

- Capacity: approx. 30
- Includes all Pool Party options, but with Event Room instead of tables near mini golf. Tables / chairs provided.
- Time slots: 1-4 PM or 4:45-7:45 PM.

Pool Party with Picnic Pad Rental

\$169	\$145
-------	-------

- Includes all Pool Party options, but with Picnic Pad instead of tables near mini golf; Seats approx. 15 people
- Grill; Electricity
- Time slots: 1-4 PM or 4:45-7:45 PM

Full-Day Amenity Rental Rates – No Party

Pavilion, Full Day Rental

- Whole (seats 75)	\$99	\$85
- Half (seats 35)	\$79	\$69

Event Room Rental Only

- Capacity: approx. 30. Tables/Chairs provided.		
- During operational pool hours	\$29/hr	\$25/hr

Picnic Pad, Full-Day Rental

\$69	\$65
------	------

- Seats approx. 12-15; Grill; Electricity

Private Picnic Tables

\$59	\$55
------	------

- Includes 2 picnic tables
- Seats approx. 12-15

*Full Facility Pool Rental after hours (8-10 PM)

\$499	\$475
-------	-------

*Activity Area Only Rental after hours (8-10 PM)

\$149	\$129
-------	-------



For more information about the Aquatic Center, visit our website at www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec_dep

* Aquatic Center Special Events

* Swimming Lessons

* SPLAShtastic time



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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @ChambersburgRec

Get Ready for Springtime!

Helpful Tips Regarding Borough Rules and Laws

GRASS/WEEDS

Owners or occupants of every property within the Borough of Chambersburg may not permit their grass, weeds, or other vegetation to grow in excess of ten (10) inches in height on their property. Also, property owners must keep grass and weeds from growing inside their sidewalk areas or along the curb in front of their properties. In cases where there are grass and weeds growing in these areas, property owners are responsible to remove them. Finally, anything but grass or concrete between the sidewalk & curb in front of your property, requires the completion of an application and the issuance of a free Borough permit.

TREES OVER SIDEWALKS

Property owners are reminded that all trees, shrubs, hedges, and other growing vegetation overhanging sidewalks must be kept trimmed to height of fewer than eight (8) feet to avoid interference with pedestrians.

TREE LIMBS OVER THE ROAD

Property owners are reminded that all tree limbs overhanging the main travel portion of a street within fourteen (14) feet above the paved roadway shall be removed or trimmed.

DEAD OR DYING STREET TREES

Property owners are reminded that all street trees (trees along the street) are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and the Borough's Shade Tree Commission is responsible for making sure they are safe and healthy.

GARBAGE, TRASH AND LITTER

Property owners are reminded that the Borough enforces property maintenance standards. Nuisances in fact, on private property, must be remediated or the property owners may face fines and civil penalties. Complaints of these violations should be made through the Codes Office by calling 717-251-2443; please provide the address of the property in violation. If an inspection of the property verifies a violation, a notice will be mailed to the property owner requiring that the violation be corrected within a defined timeframe. If the notice is not complied with, the Borough will correct the violation, which will result in a bill to the property owner covering the actual costs of removing, trimming and/or cutting plus ten (10%) percent. If this bill is not paid within thirty (30) days of issuance, the Borough will file a lien against the property based on the amount of the bill. The filing of a lien requires the property owner to pay the amount of the billing, filing costs and 10% simple interest (from the date of the filing of the lien). It is Borough policy to execute liens which may result in the sale of the property.

BARKING DOGS

Borough Ordinance 96, Article II states that a dog owner shall be presumed to have created a nuisance if he shall permit his dog to cause annoyance or discomfort to, or to disturb the peace of the citizens, residents, or other persons lawfully in the borough by barking, yelping, howling, or causing any other unseemly noise...for a period of 10 minutes, or the making of such noise intermittently for ½ hour or more. If you are reported for violating the barking dog ordinance you can be fined up to \$300.

DOG WASTE

Another problem sometimes faced by residents is dog waste left on public or private property. This is a violation of Borough Ordinance 96, Article III. Please clean up after your dog; you could be fined up to \$25 for each offense.

Doing Our Part to Make the Community a Great Place to Live!

NOISE ORDINANCE

There are two noise ordinances being enforced in the Borough of Chambersburg:

The first is called the **Noise Nuisance Ordinance**. This ordinance is enforced by the Borough's Police Department by calling the Franklin County non-emergency dispatcher at 717-263-1611. It prohibits certain noise nuisances at any time, for example:

- Noise from a vehicle or its sound system plainly audible or felt at a distance of 100 feet from the vehicle;
- Animal noises lasting for 10 minutes or more continuously or intermittently for 30 minutes;
- Vehicle racing; and
- Noise from improperly maintained equipment.

This ordinance also creates a quiet period. This is from 10 pm to 6 am on Sundays and weekdays. On weekends the quiet period begins at 11 pm on Friday and Saturday nights and ends at 8 am on the following mornings. During the quiet period noise from any source (with some common-sense exceptions) may not be plainly audible or felt across a property line or from within another dwelling unit (for example, adjoining apartments).

The second is the **Noise Performance Standards in the Zoning Ordinance**. This ordinance is enforced by the Zoning Officer (717-251-2436). This ordinance establishes standards for noise from land uses (generally, businesses or industries). Basically, in a residential district the noise level should be lower at night (10 pm to 6 am) and all day on Sundays and legal holidays. In a commercial area the noise can be louder with a quieter period at night. In manufacturing districts, the permitted noise level is higher at all times. Please note that landlords will be notified if their tenants violate noise rules.

GREEN YARD WASTE RECYCLING CENTER

The Borough's green yard waste recycling center is located at 491 West Commerce St., just off North Franklin St., in Hamilton Township. The site is open from the first Tuesday in April to the third Saturday in November, Tuesday through Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm, and residents must buy a pre-paid Green Yard Waste Card at City Hall before using the site. Contractors, landscapers, and landlords will be invoiced for their waste and they should open an account at City Hall during regular business hours:

- No tree trunks – no logs
- Do not dump large pieces of wood
- No individual item may weigh more than 30 lbs
- No individual item may be longer in length than 6 feet
- No individual item may have a diameter in excess of 6 inches

The Borough will no longer accept grass at our facility. Grass may be considered trash or composted. Per Pennsylvania DEP, grass can be recycled on your property. Grass can be mulched and left on your lawn to help it grow or deposited in a backyard compost heap. Grass overwhelms our yard waste program.

DISPOSING OF BULKY ITEMS LIKE OLD FURNITURE

It is illegal to place bulky items such as furniture, beds, boxes, and other larger or heavy household items on the sidewalk or street. Illegally dumped bulky items will be collected by Borough employees and the adjacent property owner will be assessed a disposal fee to recover the actual cost of disposal. The Borough provides to all residents a bulky item drop-off program in the spring and fall of each year. Please contact Charles Nipe, Director of Public Works, at 717-251-2496 with questions or for more information.

***For more information, call the
Chambersburg Customer
Service Center 24/7
at 717-263-4111***

NO FIREWORKS

**CONSUMER FIREWORKS
USE PROHIBITED
INSIDE BOROUGH LIMITS
CHAMBERSBURG
LOCAL LAW §152-2**

CHAMBERSBURG TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW BAN ON IGNITING MOST FIREWORKS INSIDE THE BOROUGH

On March 27, 2023, the Borough of Chambersburg adopted a new local law, which ends the practice of igniting most types of fireworks anywhere inside the Borough of Chambersburg.

Pennsylvania Act 74 of 2022, effective September 9, 2022, once again changes the Fireworks Law throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One of those changes permitted local municipalities to adopt a law stricter than State Regulations. Chambersburg's Council took this opportunity and adopted stricter rules inside the Borough limits to protect the health, safety, and property inside the Borough.

Which fireworks are PA residents now allowed to purchase and use?

Stores inside the Borough are still permitted to sell to consumers "Class C" or "consumer-grade" fireworks such as firecrackers, Roman candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material. Sale and purchase are not impacted by the new local law. Use is now prohibited in the Borough.

Who can purchase?

Anyone over the age of 18 years can purchase, possess or use consumer fireworks outside of the Borough of Chambersburg depending on local laws. Consumer fireworks do not include "ground and hand-held sparkling devices", "novelties" and "toy caps." Novelties can still be used inside the Borough limits.

"Display fireworks," which are classified as including salutes that contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials, and professional-grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, are still only to be used by professionals with a permit, which the display organizers can obtain at City Hall from the Land Use and Community Development Department.

Chambersburg Town Council has determined that consumer fireworks cannot be used within the Borough by anyone in a manner that they can reasonably be in compliance with the state requirements for consumer fireworks. Therefore, the discharge and use of consumer fireworks within the Borough of Chambersburg is now prohibited.

This law will be enforced by the Police Department of the Borough of Chambersburg by calling the Franklin County non-emergency dispatcher at 717-263-1611.

Any person using consumer or display fireworks in violation of this law shall be guilty of a summary offense, and upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a \$500 fine in addition to any other penalty authorized by law. Any person who commits a subsequent offense within three years of a prior conviction shall commit a summary offense, and upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a \$1,000 fine in addition to any other penalty authorized by law.

Chambersburg Local Law on Temporary Signs

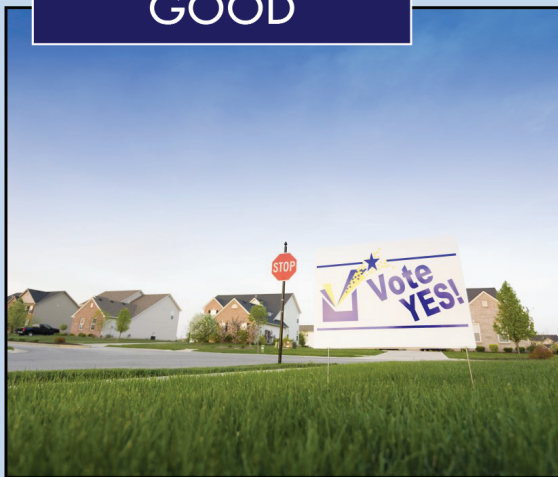
GOOD



NOT GOOD



GOOD



NOT GOOD



WHERE ARE SIGNS GENERALLY PROHIBITED?

Essentially, the space between the building-side edge of the sidewalk and the curb **OR** about four to six feet from the street surface is considered the Right of Way. While the Right of Way may not be the same from street to street, it is generally the area near the street including grass areas along the street. Absolutely no signs are authorized in this area including (but not necessarily limited to) real estate signs, yard sale signs, political signs, lost animal signs, etc.

No signs on medians, traffic islands, street lights, traffic sign poles, and telephone poles and garbage cans (all of which are almost always inside the right of way).

Signs are prohibited in the “Right of Way”

Borough of Chambersburg—www.chambersburgpa.gov—For information call Public Works at (717) 251-2471.



Year of Growth for the HR Team & Program Areas

The year 2023 was a year of growth for the HR team and various HR program areas. Keeping with the trend over the past few years, the Borough saw many changes in personnel which is a great

sign of growth. In 2023, staff processed 23 new full-time employees; 10 new part-time employees; 60 new seasonal employees; 70 returning seasonal employees; 23 internal transfers or promotions; 16 separations; and added 10 new positions to address staffing needs for succession planning. We are proud to say that we increased our minority representation to 9.2% of our total workforce, aligning with the national workforce average of employees of African-American and Latino-American identification. Additionally, our goal of having 100% of applicants, including internal, external, and seasonal applicants, apply online was met this past year. Moving this direction provided for a more standard, consistent, and reliable process, improving upon the overall effectiveness of the system itself.

Other highlights of our year include the successful IndentoGo fingerprint location at the Chambersburg Recreation Center where staff processed 6,685 customers; and a robust Safety Program to include monthly safety tours and needed improvements upon discovery. Our Training and Development program continues to see increased interest from Borough staff as we offer diverse content applicable to all levels of staff at the organization. Employees are trained on issues of safety, customer services, self-care, and a review of Borough program and benefits offered to employees. Finally, we've maintained continuity in delivery of services, including but not limited to pay and benefits, even with some planned and unplanned changes to Borough vendors over the past year. Most notably, the change to our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider and our Health Reimbursement Account Administrator. The Borough has seen a 7.8% utilization rate for EAP services which is above the national average. This affirms that employees are impressed on the importance of a work/life balance which is something the Borough continues to promote.

An important highlight of our year included the initiation of a compensation and classification study of certain identified Borough positions. Over the past several years, HR staff have been challenged to address Borough position classification and compensation in response to an ever-changing economic landscape which directly impacts the Borough's ability to recruit and retain key talent. In response to this challenge, with Town Council's approval and with the assistance and oversight of the Borough Manager, the Borough partnered with GovHR Inc., to conduct a classification and compensation study on select Borough bargaining and non-bargaining positions. Approximately 180 job analysis questionnaires (JAQ's) were completed by Borough employees, respective to their assigned positions, and submitted to GovHR to evaluate and score. Additionally, approximately 139 employee interviews were conducted by the GovHR team as part of the classification study process.

With respect to employee relations, new in 2023 was the Employee Canteen Pilot Program, a six-month trial program designed to provide drinks and snacks to Borough employees while at work, to increase efficiency and productivity of employee's time where we can. The idea was to have these snacks available to be consumed at work, saving on the time it may take an employee to otherwise leave the worksite to purchase food and preventing a break in continuity of and concentration on their important Borough work. At the conclusion of the pilot program, a survey was sent to all Borough staff to afford feedback in an effort to weigh costs and benefits of the program. The survey revealed that 87.14% of employees found the program to be valuable to them; while 97.14% believed it to be a nice perk for being an employee at the Borough of Chambersburg. Staff are looking forward to revisiting this program again.

We remain excited with all that was accomplished as well as look forward to a new year with new opportunities for change and improvements. In 2024, HR staff will continue to address workplace needs; maintain compliance to federal, state and local employment laws; mitigate liability through training and education; and increase the department's strategic presence both in and outside of the organization.

Some department goals for the year 2024 include continuing our review of certain identified job descriptions in the organization with the goal of ensuring practicality and relevance where necessary; providing personnel handbook updates, particularly to new and existing policies, in an effort to stay compliant with federal, state, and local laws; continuing to work with our vendor, GovHR, on the compensation and classification survey which began in August of 2023, and provide recommendations to the Town Council for pay plan changes where needed and necessary. Other goals include the training and development of our front-line supervisory staff in both soft and hard skills, in an effort to continue to improve upon an employee's experience at the Borough of Chambersburg. Also, in the area of Safety and Training and Development; staff will continue to put the required effort into this program area to promote necessary skills but also how to apply them within, and while contributing to, a safe work environment.

Additionally, the Human Resource Department will be undergoing a revamping of our current internal performance evaluation process with the help of our vendor, Clear Company. The goal for improvement is to increase the overall effectiveness of the program, including but not limited to, improving upon the necessary and constructive dialog between an employee and their management on a more frequent and consistent basis; setting and measuring reasonable goals and objectives to improve overall performance of both internal and external services of the Borough; and delivering the Borough an effective tool that provides the narrative and data needed to shift and/or improve upon focus areas and areas of concern.

Finally, as part of our recruitment initiatives, the department will be formalizing and expanding upon a pilot co-op program that employs local area students in relevant trades of interest that can be found at the Borough of Chambersburg such as electric generation and transmission, facility maintenance, vehicle mechanics, accounting, etc., where possible; benefiting the student with credits needed toward graduation as well as paid experience that is transferable after graduation. This program embodies the Borough's goal of building a pipeline of the next generation workforce.

Check back often at the Borough's website for employment opportunities at the Borough: www.chambersburgpa.gov

Our commitment to employees and residents, alike, is to continue to use our resources in the most fiscally conscious and responsible way; all the while maintaining best workplace practices as to promote a positive employer brand to attract future, and maintain current, employee talent. We believe that as our employees are empowered and engaged professionally, it has a direct and indirect impact to the greater Chambersburg community.





FINANCE DEPARTMENT

JASON COHEN, FINANCE DIRECTOR

Managing Borough Financial Transactions

In 2023, the Chambersburg Finance Department managed thirty-six state, federal, and local government grants, maintained 460+ citizen infrastructure loans totaling over

\$2.94 million, facilitated three routine audits, processed and recorded over \$110 Million in accounts receivable, and over 8,000 accounts payable and internal transactions.

In 2023, the Finance Department facilitated a Request for Proposals (RFP) process intended to identify and select the Borough's partners for both banking and investment advisory services. This process was undertaken in a manner that would allow for separate appointments for each, should Borough Council have determined that to be in the best interest of the Borough. Ultimately, Borough Council appointed F&M Trust, of Chambersburg, to both roles, for an initial agreement period of seven (7) years, with excellent rates for interest on deposits, banking fees, and management fees. Subsequently, Finance is now working with F&M Trust Investment Advisors toward the goal of maximizing the Borough's return on investments. For those who do not know, State Law significantly limits the type of permitted investment devices, thereby limiting the risk, and limiting the yield.

The Finance Department also administers the Borough's Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) solicitation campaign, in which tax-exempt agencies that pay no property tax, yet still receive the benefit of municipal police and fire services, were requested to contribute towards those services, in lieu of taxes. The campaign raised \$30,373 to be used towards those services, which the Borough would not have otherwise received. This represents a decrease of 17.2% when compared to PILOT's received in 2022. Revenues are anticipated to remain stable in 2024, as the economy continues to normalize.

If your tax-exempt organization wishes to contribute a financial donation to police and fire services, contact Customer Service and we can facilitate a charitable gift.

Finance and Accounting continues to administer a prescribed collections process, which consistently meets the commendable benchmark of collecting over 90% of merchandise & jobbing invoices within ninety days of issuance. Finance realized 2023 or 67% (\$73,502) of delinquent merchandise and jobbing debt identified as collectible, as of January 1, 2023. The total 2023 collections of delinquent merchandise and jobbing debts totaled \$157,345.

Over the course of last year, the Finance Department continued to administer an outreach campaign intended to increase customer participation in the electronic funds transfer program known as PETE (Payments Easily Transferred Electronically), in order to ensure timely and convenient payment of utility invoices. Participation increased by another 6%. Participants now represent about 24% of our total utility accounts.

If you want to sign up for the PETE program, contact Customer Service at 717-264-5151.

In 2022, the Finance Department, in cooperation with the Information Technology Department, began working with external partners to design and deploy a new customer portal designed to allow Borough utility customers to access their (and their tenants') utility accounts electronically, and make use of multiple modern automated and/or electronic payment types. Deployment will be as soon as the Borough of Chambersburg Information Technology Department has completed beta testing.

Finally, the Finance Department, again, proudly received recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association, via the award of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2022.

PROJECT HEAT

PROJECT H.E.A.T IS FOR ALL SEASONS!

Chambersburg neighbors have been helping neighbors with Utility Bills since 1984 through contributions to Project H.E.A.T. (Helping Everyone Avoid Termination). Utility termination creates additional challenges for people experiencing economic hardship. This year, the challenges have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 health crisis. YOU Can Help! Here's how...

- "Overpay" – Add a contribution to your utility bill payment and check the box indicating that your overpayment will support Project H.E.A.T.
- Donate directly – Make your check out to "Borough of Chambersburg – Project H.E.A.T." (Mail to: PO Box 1009, Chambersburg, PA 17201)
- All Contributions to Project H.E.A.T. are tax-deductible

NEED HELP WITH UTILITY PAYMENTS?

Contact Customer Service – (717) 264-5151 (ask for Customer Service), M-F, 8am-5pm

Walk-in: 100 S. 2nd St., Chambersburg, PA 17201 (Main entrance at rear of bldg.)

Call 2-1-1 or go to <http://www.contacthelpline.org>

2023 ACTUAL & PROPERTY TAX RATES

REVENUES:

AMOUNT:

Taxes: Property, Wage, Deed Transfer, Emergency & Municipal & PILOT	\$13,168,756
Police Fines & Costs	\$232,079
Recreation Department - Pool & Park Receipts	\$240,333
Federal, State & Other Reimbursements	\$1,802,001
Licenses, Permits, Ambulance, & Other Receipts	\$7,285,934
Enterprise Funds	\$68,931,136
Internal Service Funds	\$16,672,455
Payroll, Employees' Pensions & Other Trust Funds	\$24,290,922
Surplus Operating Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$35,940,659
Surplus Special and Reserve Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$26,576,569

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$195,140,845

Inter-Fund Transfers

\$9,929,970

TOTAL RECEIPTS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS

\$205,70,815

APPROPRIATIONS:

Fire, Ambulance, & Police	\$16,711,142
Highway, Traffic & Lighting	\$3,254,439
Public Recreation	\$1,614,081
General Administration	\$4,132,728
Community Development	\$1,634,155
Enterprise Funds	\$67,217,303
Internal Service Funds	\$15,701,357
Payroll, Employee Pensions & Other Trust Funds	\$23,888,383
Surplus Operating Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$41,546,445
Surplus Special and Reserve Funds from preceding Fiscal Year	\$19,440,804

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$195,140,836

Inter-Fund Transfers

\$9,929,978

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS

\$205,070,815

PROPERTY TAX RATES - DIRECT AND OVERLAPPING GOVERNMENTS

TAX YEAR	BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG	CHAMBERSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT	FRANKLIN COUNTY	FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY
2023	32.5 mils	127.3972 mils	29.10 mils	1.30 mils
2022	31.0 mils	122.4974 mils	29.10 mils	1.30 mils
2021	30.0 mils	118.9296 mils	29.10 mils	1.30 mils
2020	30.0 mils	118.9296 mils	29.10 mils	1.30 mils
2019	30.5 mils	115.0190 mils	29.10 mils	1.05 mils

1. Chambersburg Town Council adopts only the Borough rate; not the other rates.

2. Chambersburg Town Council did not raise taxes for six years prior to 2014.

3. Your Borough Property Tax represents only 17¢ of every \$1 paid in property taxes in 2023.

4. The Borough also collects Earned Income Tax, Deed Transfer Tax, and Local Services Tax.

2024 COUNCIL ROSTER

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Sharon Coffman
112 Pennsylvania Avenue
First Ward - 2024-2027
717-267-2739
scoffman@chambersburgpa.gov

John Huber, Finance Chair
234 South Coldbrook Avenue
Second Ward - 2024-2027
717-264-6635
jhuber@chambersburgpa.gov

Chadwick Hare
1168 Hollywell Avenue
Third Ward - 2024-2027
717-462-7959
chare@chambersburgpa.gov

Jamie Boden
370 Center Street
Fourth Ward - 2024-2025
jboden@chambersburgpa.gov

Bill Everly, Asst. Finance Chair
910 Leidig Drive
Fifth Ward - 2024-2027
beverly@chambersburgpa.gov

**Allen B. Coffman,
President/Personnel Liason**
112 Pennsylvania Avenue
First Ward - 2022-2025
717-267-2739
jhuber@chambersburgpa.gov

**Thomas Newcomer,
Vice President**
241 Phoenix Drive
Second Ward - 2022-2025
tnewcomer@chambersburgpa.gov

Dominique Brown
335 Channing Drive
Third Ward - 2022-2025
djbrown@chambersburgpa.gov

Stacy Short
68 Garber Street
Fourth Ward - 2024-2025
sshort@chambersburgpa.gov

Weston Waytow
744 E. Garfield Street
Fifth Ward - 2022-2025
wwaytow@chambersburgpa.gov

MAYOR

Kenneth Hock
406 S. Coldbrook Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Mayors Office: 717-251-2492
mayor@chambersburgpa.gov

COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00 P.M.
REGULAR PUBLIC GENERALLY:
2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
1ST FLOOR

OFFICE ADDRESS:

100 SOUTH SECOND STREET,
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

(717) 264-5151

BOROUGH STAFF

Jeffrey Stonehill
Borough Manager
Director of Utilities
717-251-2433

Phil Wolgemuth
Deputy Borough Manager
Land Use and
Development Director
717-251-2436

Jamia L. Wright
Borough Secretary
717-251-2437

Tanya Sisk
Assistant Borough Secretary
717-251-2447

G. Bryan Salzmann
Borough Solicitor
717-263-2121

Andrew J. Benchoff
Assistant Borough Solicitor
717-762-8222

Jeff Heverley
Director of Electric Operations
717-254-2418

John Leary
Director of Natural Gas Utility
717-251-2422

Jon Mason
Assistant Director of
Natural Gas Utility
717-251-2423

Lance Anderson
Director of Water & Wastewater
717-251-2405

Travis Amsley
Assistant Director of
Water & Wastewater
717-251-2439

Charles Nipe
Director of Public Works
717-251-2496

A. Elwood Sord
Assistant Director of
Public Works
717-251-2479

Dustin Ulrich
Fire Chief & EMS Director
717-251-2475

Benjamin R. Myers
Assistant Fire Chief
717-251-2476

Roland Camacho
Police Chief
717-264-4131

Julie Redding
Recreation Director
717-251-2470

Guy Shaul
Community & Economic
Development Specialist
717-251-2446

Andy Stottlemeyer
Storm Sewer System Manager
717-251-2434

Jason Cohen
Director of Finance/Treasurer
717-251-2412

Ben Hayhurst
Assistant Director of Finance
717-251-2409

Arnold Barbour
Sanitation and Recycling
717-261-3213

Melinda Thompson
Director of Administrative Services
717-261-3213

Customer Service
717-264-5151

Brenda Hill
Borough Tax Collector
717-263-6565

Franklin Co. Area Tax Bureau
717-263-5141

BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG

100 SOUTH SECOND STREET | CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201
www.chambersburgpa.gov | Phone: (717) 264-5151
boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov

*En el departamento de servicio
al cliente se habla Español.*

BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG
100 South Second Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201-0909

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THE MAILMAN
ECRWSS

ECRWSSDDM
POSTAL CUSTOMER
CHAMBERSBURG PA 17201



BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG

100 South Second Street | Chambersburg, PA 17201

boroughsecretariesoffice@chambersburgpa.gov

www.chambersburgpa.gov

(717) 264-5151