



# *Borough of Chambersburg*

*A full service municipality in Franklin County  
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service  
over 120 years of community electric and a  
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHAMBERSBURG TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES 2022 BUDGET

Chambersburg – On Monday, December 13, 2021, the Chambersburg Town Council approved the Borough Manager's Proposed 2022 Budget as presented on Monday, October 25, 2021. The entire proposed 2022 Budget is available on Transparency Page at [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov).

Chambersburg is the only town in Pennsylvania to have an electric, gas, water, sewer, sanitation, and storm sewer utility.

This budget includes a 1 mil tax increase due exclusively to the Police Station project. If not for the renovation of the Borough Police Station on South Second Street, there would have been no change in taxes proposed for 2022.

This is only the fourth time there has been any Borough tax increase in the last 16 years.

All Funds Budget: \$129,721,991 which represents a 17% increase in budget size compared to 2021 (\$110 million), due to American Rescue Plan and the Police Station Bond.

General Fund Budget: \$17,928,830, which represents a 9.5% increase due to the Police Station Bond. The General Fund is the account with Police, Fire, Recreation, & Highway.

The Borough receives no sales tax, liquor taxes, business taxes, or any other local tax; they are not options under State Law. Township residents pay no taxes to the Borough other than the Local Services Tax, \$1 per week, if they work inside the Borough.

The Police Station Renovation Project and the spending associated with the American Rescue Plan Act will cause a temporary increase in the size of the budget.

On Monday, October 11, 2021, Council approved a list of projects to utilize the Borough's share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). This Federal grant, with no local match, will fund eight transformational projects in the Borough including subsidies for landlords, low-income utility customers, restaurant owners, extensive improvements to the Storm Sewer System, and the purchase of a derelict warehouse on South Fourth Street and the Southgate Shopping Center. These projects are important goals in the 2022 Budget.

The average single-family home in the Borough pays \$538 in real estate taxes to the Borough per year. Half pay less. This is what the average single-family home inside the Borough actually pays per year before discount. Commercial properties may pay more. Assessed value is not fair market value. Township properties pay no tax to the Borough. Visit the Franklin County Tax Assessment Office to learn your property's assessed value at 272 N. Second Street, Chambersburg, 17201 or click <https://gis.franklincountypa.gov/taxparcelviewer/> to check your home's assessed value. If it is inside the Borough, click on your home on the map, Find your TOT ASSMT, then divide the number by 1,000 and then multiply that by 31, for 31 total mil of Borough Tax.

Lowest Utility Rates: 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 gas and electric customers throughout the State of Pennsylvania. Borough gas, water, sewer, electric, and sanitation rates are much lower than other municipal and private sector utilities. Finally, the Electric and Gas departments make a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to support the Police and Fire departments.

Utility Rates 2022:

- No change to the Borough natural gas rate, same since 2013

(Average Home Pays \$804 per year)

- No change to the Borough electric rate, since drop in 2020

(Average Home Pays \$98.90 per month)

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

(Average Home Pays \$29.50 per month)

- No change to the sanitation rate, same since January 2020

(Average Home Pays \$20.81 per month)

- Small change to the Borough water rate. Increase of 2¢ per unit.

(In 2021, average family bill based upon consumption: \$17.25 per month)

(In 2022, average family bill based upon consumption: \$17.85 per month)

Remains one of the lowest water rates in the region.

#### Ambulance Fee:

In 2020, Town Council introduced an Ambulance Fee on all water customer invoices, which will continue in 2022 with no change. This Ambulance Fee helps defray the costs of the ambulance service being ready-to-serve. Each year, Federal rules require ambulance companies to write-off invoices for Medicaid & Medicare patients. In 2020, the Borough wrote-off over \$1.4 million in billing. Ambulance companies are in crisis as a result of low revenue and no volunteers. This is not a tax, as under State law taxes can only be assessed on the value of real estate. Approximately 40% of property is exempt from property taxes. It is not the Ambulance Club. The Ambulance Club is a voluntary donation program mailed separately. In 2022, the fee will not change from \$7.50 per month per water service account.

#### Changes Coming to the Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee – Only non-single-family properties impacted:

Beginning in January 2022, all 993 non-single-family-residential properties in the Borough (business, multifamily, industrial, commercial, church or institution) will pay the fee based upon the actual impervious area on their lot. Called an ERU, each non-single-family tax lot has been measured against the “equivalent residential unit”, and then will be invoiced a multiple of ERUs based on actual impervious surfaces at the per ERU rate. The plan was approved by the Town Council, but every non-single-family home customer will receive a 30% discount for the year 2022. If you own property that is not a single-family house, you should prepare for the change. The currently flat per sanitary sewer connection fee of \$5 per month for each sewer connection will change to \$5 per month per ERU beginning in January 2022. Call the Storm Sewer System Manager, Andy Stottlemeyer, at 717-251-2434 to learn about your property's ERU value today and BE PREPARED!

#### Essential Workers:

Town Council would like to take a moment to thank all Borough employees. In what was a difficult year for everyone, our employees, who are also our friends and neighbors, stepped up and kept the Borough offices, police, fire, EMS, and utilities operating during some challenging times. In 2021, most employees volunteered to give up annual cost of living increases, which helped balance last year's budget.

Please send any questions or comments to Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager, at [jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov)

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Chambersburg is a unique community. Pennsylvania's only municipal natural gas utility, owned and operated by the citizens of the Borough; Chambersburg is also Pennsylvania's largest municipal electric utility, and the only one that owns and operates generation stations. Chambersburg provides natural gas, electricity, water, sewer, parking and trash for the residents and businesses throughout most of the Borough. Under local control, rates, policies, etc., that are decided locally by the Chambersburg Town Council. Chambersburg currently has 20,878 residents (2017). [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov).



# Approved 2022 Borough Budget Info

- On Monday, October 25, 2021, the Borough Manager presented the proposed budget at a special public meeting.
- On Monday, November 8, 2021, Town Council to receive public comments on the proposed budget.
- On Monday, November 22, 2021, Town Council received additional public comments.
- On Monday, December 13, 2021, Town Council voted to approve the budget and local tax ordinance.

The entire proposed 2022 Budget is available on Transparency Page at [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov).

### All Funds Budget

\$129,721,991 which represents a 17% increase in budget size compared to 2021 (\$110 million), due to American Rescue Plan and the Police Station Bond.

### General Fund Budget

\$17,928,830, which represents a 9.5% increase due to the Police Station Bond. The General Fund is the account with Police, Fire, Recreation, & Highway.

### Available Taxes

The Borough receives no sales tax, liquor taxes, business taxes, or any other local tax; they are not options under State Law. Township residents pay no taxes to the Borough other than the Local Services Tax, \$1 per week, if they work inside the Borough.

### Police Station Project

The Police Station Renovation Project and the spending associated with the American Rescue Plan Act will cause a temporary increase in the size of the budget.

### American Rescue Plan

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**Real Estate Taxes** – the Borough of Chambersburg collects four types of property taxes from landowners inside the Borough:

### Police Tax 2022 – No change

There is no change in the Police Tax; 100% of this tax goes to support the Police Department.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
21	23	23	24	24	24	24	24	mil
Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough								Per Year
Police Tax								\$417

### Fire/Ambulance Tax 2022 – No change

There is no change in the Fire Tax; State Law requires a split of this tax with 2.5 mil for apparatus & 0.5 for firefighting.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Fire	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	3	3	mil
EMS	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	mil
Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough									Per Year
Fire Tax									\$52

### Recreation Bond Tax 2022 – No change

Approved in 2016, this tax pays down this specific bond only and does not pay for any of the operations of the Recreation Department. This is the bond that built various Rec. Department community assets.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	mil
Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough								Per Year
Recreation Bond Tax								\$52

### Police Station Bond Tax 2022 – NEW TAX

Proposed for 2022, this tax pays down this specific bond only and does not pay for any of the operations of the Police Department. Anticipated to rise in 2023 based on interest rates and the project's final construction.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	mil
Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough								Per Year
Police Station Bond Tax								\$17

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**FULL BUDGET ONLINE**

www.chambersburgpa.gov  
Click on QR Code with your Camera



**Lowest Utility Rates**

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In fact, those residential customers with Borough gas and electric will save over \$1,000 per year in utility expenses, when compared to average gas and electric customers throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Borough gas, water, sewer, electric, and sanitation rates are much lower than other municipal and private sector utilities.

Finally, the Electric and Gas departments make a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to support the Police and Fire departments.

**Largest Public Utility System in State**

Chambersburg is the largest public power system in Pennsylvania, and the only community with both municipal electric and natural gas.

**Essential Workers**

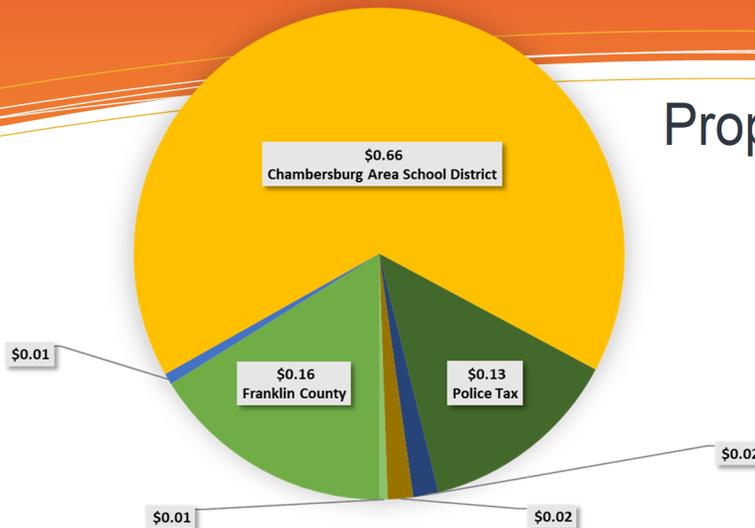
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**Borough of Chambersburg**

2022 Budget



**Property Tax Burden**

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, 66¢ of every dollar goes to the Chambersburg Area School District. They send their own tax bill.

Taxing Authority	Mil Rate	Annual	Percentage	Value
Franklin County (2021)	29.10 mil	\$505.61	16.14%	.16¢
Library System (2021)	1.30 mil	\$22.59	0.72%	.01¢
Chambersburg Area School District (2021)	118.9296 mil	\$2,066.39	65.95%	.66¢
Police Tax (2022)	24.0 mil	\$417.00	13.31%	.13¢
Fire Tax (2022)	3.0 mil	\$52.12	1.66%	.02¢
Recreation Bond Tax (2022)	3.0 mil	\$52.12	1.66%	.02¢
Police Station Bond Tax (2022)	1.0 mil	\$17.37	0.56%	.01¢
<b>Total</b>	<b>180.3296 mil</b>	<b>\$3,133.20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1</b>

Average burden on a single-family type home inside the Borough of Chambersburg based on assessed value

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