



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, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tax Increases Coming to Chambersburg

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – As Memorial Park Pool construction continues, Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill reminded Town Council that they already approved a new Recreation Tax for 2018.

At the Council meeting Monday evening, the Borough's 2018 Budget process kicked off.

On September 19, 2016, Town Council approved the recreation bond sale for \$9.75 million. It is estimated that beginning in 2018, a Borough-wide assessment of 3 mil of property tax will be needed to retire this debt or about \$50 per year for the average single family home inside the Borough. The money borrowed, above the cost of the pool, is earmarked for a list of other park improvements all over the community. The full list of all the park projects is available on the Borough website www.chambersburgpa.gov

Other park projects, in addition to the pool, are being designed to begin soon.

On January 12, 2017, the competitive bids to build the new pool facility were opened electronically and Lobar, Inc., had the low bid. However, their bid price has been further reduced by some additional changes to the original contract design. Stonehill explained to Council, “We wanted to start with a price tag in our original range of \$6.9 million to \$7.25 million so we entered into some engineering to lower the cost before we asked Council to award the bid.” Change order #1 was approved at the same time as the contract.

The new pool will not be operational anytime in 2017, construction continues and is progressing on schedule. It is likely that there will be a grand opening of the new facility around Memorial Day 2018.

A business plan created by the consultants anticipates four times the number of annual visitors to the new pool than ever visited the old facility. Council has yet to adopt the annual fees for the facility, but they have pledged to keep the cost about the same as the old pool, and there are programs for families that cannot afford to buy annual memberships at the pool. The new pool will have a lot of new programming and activities.

Stonehill reminded council that this new Recreation Tax pays off the Recreation Bond as decided by Town Council, but it's not necessarily the only tax increase being considered for 2018.

On Monday night, Mayor Darren Brown swore in a new firefighter, who will be attending the HACC Fire Academy this fall.

When Stonehill introduced the new firefighter, he reminded Council that the new labor pact that they approved with the fire union calls for hiring three new firefighters. When asked to remind Council whether the agreement may also necessitate an increase in the Chambersburg Fire Tax, Stonehill reminded them that a Fire Tax adjustment was likely in 2018.



New Memorial Park Pool under Construction in Chambersburg

Fire Tax (Tax on Real Property of the Borough Earmarked for Fire/EMS Apparatus or up to 1/2 Mill for Fire Operations)												
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	?	

2.5 mills equates to approx. \$41.84 per year for the average single family home in the Borough of Chambersburg

Police Tax (Tax on Real Property of the Borough Earmarked for Police Department Operations)												
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	23	23	?	

23mills equates to approx. \$386.94 per year for the average single family home in the Borough of Chambersburg

Recreation Tax (Tax on Real Property of the Borough Earmarked for Bond Issue that Paid for the New Pool and other Recreation Projects)												
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	

3mills equates to approx. \$50.21 per year for the average single family home in the Borough of Chambersburg

Chambersburg Real Estate Tax Rates 2007-2018

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit 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 generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater.

Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013). www.chambersburgpa.gov