

ATGLEN BOROUGH NEWS

December 2011

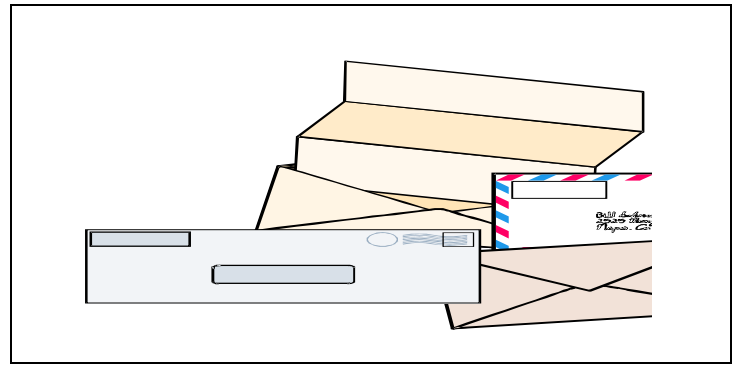
2012 Budget

Last year at this time we talked about the sluggish economy and not much has changed and expectations for 2012 appear to be more of the same, particularly in the housing industry. The State really only allows 2 main sources of tax revenue to most local governments in PA (Philadelphia & Pittsburgh are treated differently) and that is real estate tax and earned income tax. The \$7,913,538 spending plan (all funds combined including the \$2.5M General Obligation Bond Fund for the construction of a new sanitary sewer facility) calls for a real estate tax increase of 1 mill, the first real estate tax increase since 2007.

This increase brings the real estate tax rate to 5.10 mills. The downward trend in the size of the tax base was helped by an increase in the number of assessment appeals contesting the value of homes during the region wide housing bust. The 2011 tax assessment value resulted in an assessment loss of \$346,040 with a two year total assessment loss of \$607,970. The current real estate valuation of \$50,141,940 is equivalent to \$50,142 a mill.

Although the General Fund gets most of the attention, there are six funds within the Borough's budget: General Fund, Sewer Fund, Water Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, State Fund and the 2010 General Obligation Bond Fund.

Sewer and Water Utility rates pay for the operation and maintenance of the Borough's sanitary sewer and water systems. For the most part, revenue from the fees remain



steady unless there is new development. The 2012 draft budget includes a rate increase to \$175.00 per quarter for the sewer fund based on the cash analysis for the Bond funding. The water fund budget does not include a rate increase. Continued use of the fund balance is necessary in both utility funds. These funds are not in jeopardy of completely being depleted, but Borough officials must look for ways to build them back up for when they are needed.

Trash fee budget is increased to \$55.00 per quarter, an increase of \$4.00 per year.

Zoning Ordinance Update

The Chester County Planning Commission, through a Vision Partnership Grant will provide professional planning and support staff to assist the Borough in an update of the Borough Zoning Ordinance. The scope of works covers the review and update of the Ordinance to ensure it addresses current issues, concerns and goals of the Borough. The Ordinance was updated in 2001 with recent definition and telecommunication amendments this year. This update will address concerns with the current Zoning Ordinance and respond to input provided by the Task Force and the public. An updated and revised zoning map will be provided and the Ordinance will comply with the applicable provisions and content requirements for a Zoning Ordinance as prescribed by the State Municipal Planning Code. The update will be consistent with the recommendations of the following Borough planning policies: Atglen Borough Comprehensive Plan (2000) and the Atglen Borough Revitalization Plan (2002, amended 2010). The project is expected to be completed within eighteen (18) months.

Sewer Upgrade/Expansion

As explained over the past several years, the State (DEP) and Federal (EPA) governments have mandated municipalities clean up the Chesapeake Bay by reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into the Susquehanna. Last December the Borough received a \$2,500,000.00 twenty-five year General Obligation Note through the Recovery Zone Bond (Federal Stimulus Money), for the upgrade/expansion of the sewer facility. The Note bears a fixed rate of 5.85% for the first 10 years and a 45% reimbursement from the Federal government for the life of the note. As mentioned above, based on the cash flow analysis effective with the December 1, 2011 billing, Sewer Rates are increased to \$175.00 per quarter per unit.

Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Information

Property Tax / Rent Rebate deadline has been extended to December 31, 2011.

Claimants or spouses 65 years of age or older; widows or widowers 50 years of age or older; and the permanently disabled 18 years of age or older may qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

Visit

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/property_tax_rent_rebate_program/11410 for more information including an application and income eligibility levels.

Meetings are held in the
Borough Office located at 120 Main Street
at 7:00 p.m.

Borough Council - 1st Monday

Discount Prescription Drug Program

The Chester County prescription drug discount card can be used by Chester County residents to help cope with the high price of prescription drugs. This new program, sponsored by the [National Association of Counties \(NACo\)](http://www.naco.org), offers average savings of 22% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. **There is no cost to Chester County taxpayers for this program**

Visit <http://www.chesco.org> and type "discount drug program" in the search box to print a discount card and see a list participating pharmacies, or you can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 for more information.



The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP

is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

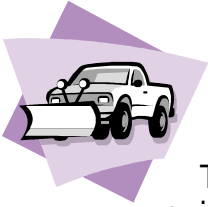
****Applications for 2011-2012 LIHEAP season are now available by going to http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistance/liheap/S_000960 for an application or contact the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095**



GIVE THE BEST GIFT EVER



Blood Drive will be held on Friday, December 23, 2011 from 1 & 7 p. m. at the Penningtonville Presbyterian Church, 406 Main Street. You can call the church 610.593.2173 or go to www.redcross.org to make an appointment for a blood donation if you wish or... just drop by.



SNOW REMOVAL GUIDELINES

The Borough does its best to quickly remove snow and ice from Borough roads when it storms. Standard procedure is to plow, making a lane of travel for emergency vehicles, and then return to clear the roadway for vehicular traffic.

By following the guidelines below, residents can help improve snow removal this winter.

- 1. Move your vehicles from the roads.** If possible move your vehicle from the street during the course of any snowfall or ice storm, and for 12 hours following any storm or until snow/ice removal operations are complete, whichever period is greater.
- 2. Do not put trash containers in the road** if a storm is forecasted, during the storm or after until road clearing operations are completed.
- When clearing driveways, either yourself or by a contractor, **do not push snow into the roadway.** This is a State law and this winter season the police will enforce it.
- Mailboxes,** sprinkler heads, fencing, landscaping and any other personal property items are installed in road rights-of-way at your own risk. The Borough is not responsible for damage to any personal property placed within rights of way. If you must have anything within the Borough right of way, using wand-mounted reflectors as markers will assist the plow operators in their attempt to avoid these items.

The Borough provides winter maintenance on dedicated Borough roads only. PennDOT provides winter maintenance on all state roads in the Borough which are: Route 41, Route 372 and Swan Road. If you have any questions regarding maintenance on any state road, please contact PennDOT at 800-932-4600.

We hope all residents will follow these guidelines to make snow and ice removal more efficient for the upcoming season. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Christmas in and around Atglen & Parkesburg House Tour

Saturday, December 3rd 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tickets are available at the Atglen Library, all ticket sales benefit the Atglen and Parkesburg Libraries.

Penningtonville Church will be open during the house tour. The Café will be open for lunch from 11:00 to 2:00 and crafters will have their wares available for purchase.

The Library will have cookies & hot cocoa for the tour; please contact the library at 610.593.6848 for tour / ticket information.



Tree Lighting Ceremony

The entire community is invited on Sunday, December 4th beginning at 6:00 p.m. to the Community Tree Lighting Service hosted by Penningtonville Presbyterian Church. 406 Main Street



Breakfast with Santa

See information on reverse side

Atglen Borough Council

Dirk Hagen - President
Larry Lavenberg - Vice-President
Michael Brock - Member
Carol (Moyer) McGrath - Member
Nancy Pelet - Member

Wesley Vincent - Mayor