

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP,
CHESTER COUNTY
8 TOWNSHIP DRIVE
CHEYNEY, PA 19319
PHONE: 610.399.1425 |
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OFFICE HOURS:
MON-FRI 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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James Benoit, Vice-Chairman
William Reilly, Supervisor
Michael Gallagher, Supervisor
Joe Lisa, Supervisor

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Ron Giacinto

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The Gander

NEWSLETTER

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY



WINTER 2016

2016 Budget Narrative

The Township is charged with promoting safety, health, and the general welfare of its residents. The 2016 budget is the culmination of a process that takes into consideration the state and federal mandated requirements, and the goals and objectives set forth by the Board of Supervisors. The budget is the embodiment of how the Township will promote the safety, health, and general welfare of its residents in 2016.

The Township has five separate funds, each of which has its own budget for 2016. The five funds include the General Fund, Capital Fund, Sewer Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, Stabilization Fund, and Operational Money Market. This budget summary will provide a brief overview of each fund.

General Fund

The General Fund is used to pay for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of Thornbury Township. The 2016 budget for the General Fund is \$1,861,065.71, which represents a 5.12% increase from the approved 2015 budget.

Due to economic conditions and limited prospects for population growth, forecasts indicate a continued flattening pattern for tax revenues, earned income taxes, and real estate transfer tax for the foreseeable future. No significant changes expected in the revenue line items.

General Government – This portion of the budget includes Township personnel, consultants, communications, rent, tax collection costs, and office expenses. The 2016 budget allocates \$359,117.74 for the general government and administration services of the Township. There is a 14% decrease in salary figures and a 28% decrease in insurance costs due to the 2014/2015 personnel changes. The Local Enabling taxes (Local Service Tax, Earned Income Tax, and Real Estate Transfer Tax) account for 52% of the Township's revenue (\$968,500.00). The Real Estate Tax accounts for 17% of the Township's revenue (\$315,500.00).

Public Safety – The Public Safety portion of the budget also includes funding for building inspection, code enforcement, and animal control services as needed. The total budget for Public Safety is \$990,472.29. The 2016 budget includes \$834,399.00 for the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department contract, a 4% increase from 2015. The Police contract constitutes 51% of the total budget. This contract provides for all police services in the Township and expires December 2018. The budget also includes \$81,849.00 for the fire protection contract with the West

Chester Fire Department. This contract expires December 2018.

Planning & Zoning – Funding for legal counsel and advertising as it relates to ordinance revisions, as well as Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board administration, is included in the budget. The budget for Planning & Zoning totals \$4,850.00. Most expenses are reimbursed by the applicant to the Township.

Public Works – The 2016 budget includes funding for the continued maintenance and repair of the approximately 18 miles of Township owned roadways. This includes road repair, roadside maintenance, traffic sign maintenance, stormwater inlet maintenance, and snow & ice control. If a particularly harsh winter requires additional funding, Township management will need to make proper adjustments to keep the budget balanced. The 2016 Budget includes storm inlet projects with estimated costs of \$20,000.00 and a Road Program of \$200,000.00. The Township also shares traffic signal maintenance responsibility with Westtown Township for seven intersections and pays for 50% of these maintenance costs, totaling approximately \$15,000. For 2016, the Township has budgeted \$200,000.00

toward road paving, which will be funded partially by the State Liquid Fuels revenue, which is outlined in the Liquid Fuels Fund below. The total budget for Public Works is \$437,146.80.

Culture & Recreation - The budget includes funding for the continued maintenance of Goose Creek Park and Squire Cheyney Park. This includes grounds maintenance, mowing, landscaping, and playground maintenance. The total budget for Culture and Recreation is \$26,000.00. In 2016, a comprehensive long term capital plan will be developed.

Town Center – The budget provides for continued maintenance and repair for the facilities at Town Center. (\$30,665.16)

Capital Fund

The Capital Fund is used for projects that are normally expensive, have a long useful life, and are usually planned in advance (i.e. buildings, public works projects, and equipment). The Capital Fund does not have a dedicated revenue source, so it only receives funding as it is transferred from other funds. (Balance of \$904,508.46)

Sewer Fund

The Sewer Fund was used for implementation of planned sewer projects, and is now for sewer operations in the Township. In 2016, the Township expects \$11,200 in user fee revenue. Planned expenses include \$7,443.72 in conveyance and administration costs, and \$3,756.28 to be added to the sewer fund capital reserve. (Balance of \$31,209.55)

Liquid Fuels Fund

By Commonwealth law, the Liquid Fuels Fund can only be used for repaving and other road maintenance activities. Traditionally the

Township has uses these funds for repaving. The Liquid Fuels Fund has a dedicated funding source through the State Liquid Fuels Tax (aka Gas Tax). In 2016, the Township will receive \$103,221.38 which is a 13.74% increase from the 2015 allocation. Depending on costs of paving and the assessment of the roads in the spring review, the planned paving projects for 2016 may include: Red Lion Road, Woodbine Road, Twaddell Road, William Penn Blvd., and South Concord Road.

Stabilization Fund/Operational Money Market

The Stabilization Fund was created in 2012 to track the available fund balance for the Board to use. The Operational Money Market was established in 2015 to have General Fund balance earn interest. These funds are not restricted and may be used by the Board at their discretion. (Balance of Stabilization Fund \$58,060.54 and Operational Money Market \$156,185.00)

It is imperative that the Township remain cautious in spending as the year progresses to ensure that revenue targets are achieved. I can assure the Board of Supervisors and the residents that we

will aggressively manage the budget to ensure the Township operates within its means. Items with major budgetary impact in the next three years include:

Escalations of Contract costs for Emergency Services

Severity of weather – not just winter but also high wind storms.

Escalations in cost of materials, such as asphalt, concrete, etc.

Changes in cost of contracted labor

I would like to thank the Board of Supervisors, Maryann Furlong, and Teresa Destefano who participated in this year’s budget process.

- Judy Lizza, Township Manager



2016 BUDGET EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016 Annual Operating Budget: \$1,861,065.71

Real Estate Tax Millage Increase: 0% remains at 0.9950

Planned Capital Projects*:

General Stormwater Improvements*:

Westbourne Road: 30” pipe replacement, Woodbine Rd. 15” pipe replacement, Thornbury Road: pipe extension

Planned Park & Open Space Projects: Development of long term capital plans for parks

Planned Road Paving Projects*: (determination after 2016 spring road inspection)

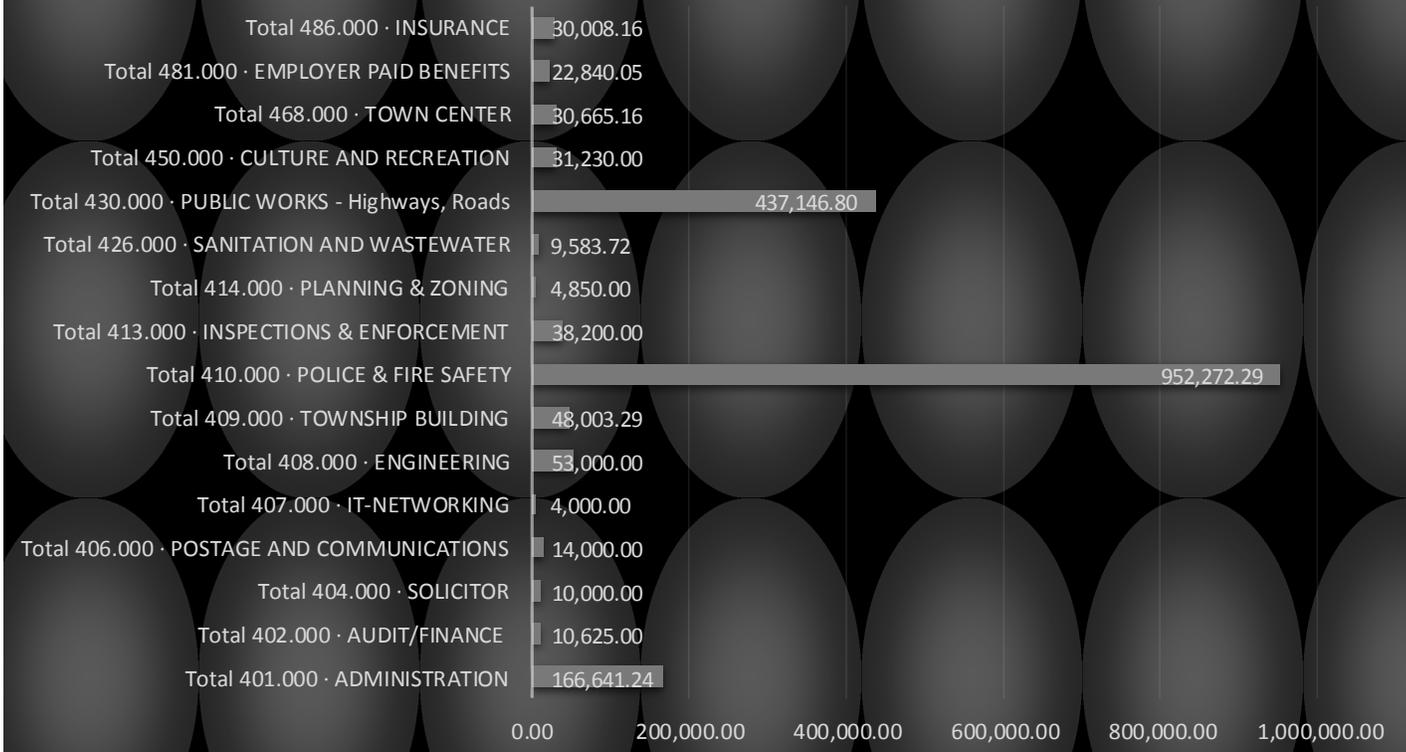
Red Lion Road, Woodbine Road, Twaddell Drive, William Penn Blvd., South Concord Road

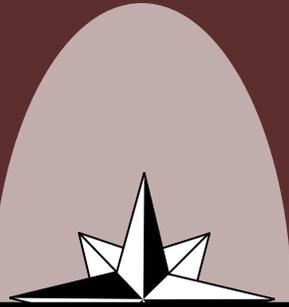
* Projects depend on funding availability

2016 Revenue by Account



2016 Expenditures by Account





MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Township Building, 8 Township Drive, unless otherwise stated:

Board of Supervisors Work Session is held on the first Tuesday of the month @6:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors Meeting is held on the third Tuesday of the month @7:00 p.m.

Historic Preservation Committee meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month @7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Monday of the month @7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board meets on an as needed basis.

Sign up for reminders at the website:
www.thornburytp.com
 "Notify Me"

HISTORIC SQUIRE CHEYNEY SPRINGHOUSE

We last looked at the Squire Cheyney Springhouse a year ago, in the Winter 2015 issue of *The Gander*. Since then the modest springhouse has gained a new importance as the focal point of the Township's recently opened Squire Cheyney Farm Park on Cheyney Road.

Those who walk the park's undulating path probably have noticed the springhouse's new roof. In late November contractors replaced the rotting rafters and purlins with new ones and covered them with a raised-seam metal alloy roof.

Raised-seam roofs have many virtues. The seams, often an entry point for moisture, are by definition raised above the roof's surface. Raised-seam roofs are hardy in other ways as well. They are more resistant to hail damage than conventional asphalt shingles – good news after last spring's destructive hailstorm. They

also are lighter than other roofing materials, which the springhouse's ancient, bowed walls appreciate. And don't worry about lightning strikes. Height, not material, is the primary factor in lightning strikes.

The springhouse's roof is made of Galvalume, an aluminum-zinc alloy-coated steel sheet that Bethlehem Steel invented in 1972. It is superior to standard galvanized steel in nearly every way. Unlike conventional galvanized roofing, Galvalume is environmentally friendly; its composition includes recycled materials and is 100% recyclable at the end of its lifetime. It is also resistant to rust over the long haul. The coating on the springhouse comes with a 45-year warranty. It is rather bright at the moment but as it ages it will gain a softer patina.

In giving the springhouse a

metal roof, the Township is stabilizing the building, not restoring it to its probable original appearance. Instead the springhouse has returned to a state that characterizes most surviving springhouses (and other outbuildings) in the region, and resembles the roof the springhouse had when the Township acquired it from the Dallett family. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, farmers began replacing rotting wood shingle roofs with a cheaper alternative, "tin roofs." In that regard, the Cheyney Springhouse fits comfortably within its agricultural environment and its own history. It probably has had a metal roof for more years than a wood-shingle roof.

Despite its new roof, the springhouse is not out of the woods yet. The back wall, facing away from the park, needs repairing, and the exterior walls need to be covered with protective stucco. The springhouse was built with rubble, often called fieldstone. This cheap stone was not finished to withstand the weather and was covered with stucco from its beginning. Its present appearance may be picturesque and pleasing to the eye, but it is not good for the springhouse. So as you walk the park, keep your eyes open for continued improvements of our township landmark.

Article submitted by the Historic Preservation Commission.



SNOW & ICE REMOVAL TIPS



Avoid high piles that may obstruct your vision entering the roadway.

Do not push snow into roads at any time!! It has the potential to create icy and hazardous conditions for drivers.

Clear an area in front of your mailbox or the carrier may not stop.

Remove vehicles parked on the roads or cul-de-sacs to your

driveway to make it easier for the plows to maneuver through your neighborhood.

When shoveling driveways, leave the last six feet un-shoveled until the road plowing is finished.

Please remember to be patient.

Snow removal does take time. Our contractor will plow the most dangerous and heavily travelled roads first. They will get to your neighborhood as soon as possible.

MS4 TIP: ICE & SNOW REMOVAL

Please think about environmentally-friendly ways to control ice. Traction agents help prevent slipping on ice but don't melt it. Sand, kitty litter and ashes can hurt vegetation, clog sewers, and degrade aquatic habitats. Rock salt is the most common product because it's effective and cheap, however, it is highly corrosive and ecologically damaging. A water-friendly option is Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) products which are low in phosphorous. Use only the recommended amount. CMA is less problematic for soils, vegetation, water supplies, and concrete, and it is non-corrosive, made from corn or petroleum and converts ice into an oatmeal-like mush.



WEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT:



In December, Corporal Steven Ranck of the Pennsylvania State Police presented Officer Russell Weaverling of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department with a donated Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) device on behalf of the Trooper Kenton

Iwaniec Memorial Foundation. The device is utilized by police officers to determine the presence of alcohol in a motorist and is a highly effective tool in fighting impaired driving. The Trooper Kenton

Iwaniec Memorial Foundation was formed in memory of Trooper Kenton Iwaniec, a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, who was killed in 2008 by a severely impaired woman just minutes after completing his shift at the Avondale Station in Chester County. The Foundation's goal is to provide a PBT to every police station in Pennsylvania to combat impaired driving. Officer Weaverling's application for a PBT was granted by the Foundation due to his demonstrated commitment to DUI enforcement. Since joining the police department in 2012, Officer Weaverling has made 51 DUI arrests. PHOTO: Corporal Ranck, PSP (left), Officer Weaverling, WEGO (right), Trooper Kenton Iwaniec, PSP

AMC MOVIE TICKETS

\$8.00 EACH!

Thornbury Township is offering discounted movie tickets available for purchase at the Township Building. Tickets may be used for any movie on any day at the local AMC Dine In Theatre. They make great gifts!

Please note that Thornbury Township does not accept credit cards. Check or cash only please.

Upcoming Township Event:

The spring **Shredding Event** will take place on April 23, 2016. Check out the website in early April for more information on the Shredding Event.





Recycling Corner

Chester County Hazardous Waste & Electronic Waste Collection Schedule

The 2016 list of dates and locations for hazardous waste and electronic waste collection will be made available in February through the Chester County Solid Waste Authority. Please visit www.chestercountyswa.org for the collection calendar. Collection events start at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. **Please note that collections are for residential waste only and businesses and contractors will be turned away.**

For a complete list of acceptable hazardous and e-waste materials contact the Solid Waste Authority of Chester County at 610.273.3771 or visit www.chestercountyswa.org.

Local Tax Return is Due April 18

It's that time of year again. The 2015 local earned income tax return filing deadline is approaching. The due date is extended to Monday April 18 this year because Washington DC is commemorating Emancipation Day on Friday April 15. Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can [e-file](#) on our tax administrator's secure website, which is available 24/7 at www.KeystoneCollects.com. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, visit Keystone's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline** at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions 24/7 to [Taxpayer Support](#). Taxpayer Service Agents try to respond to all online inquiries within three business days.

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