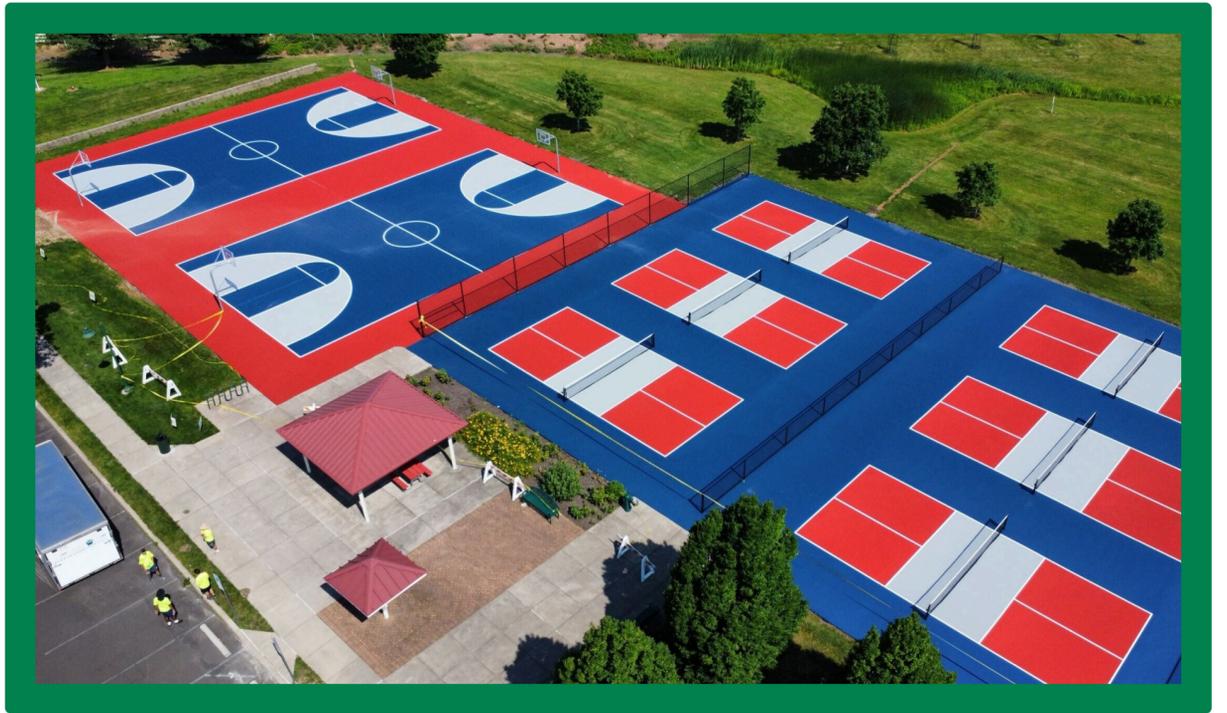
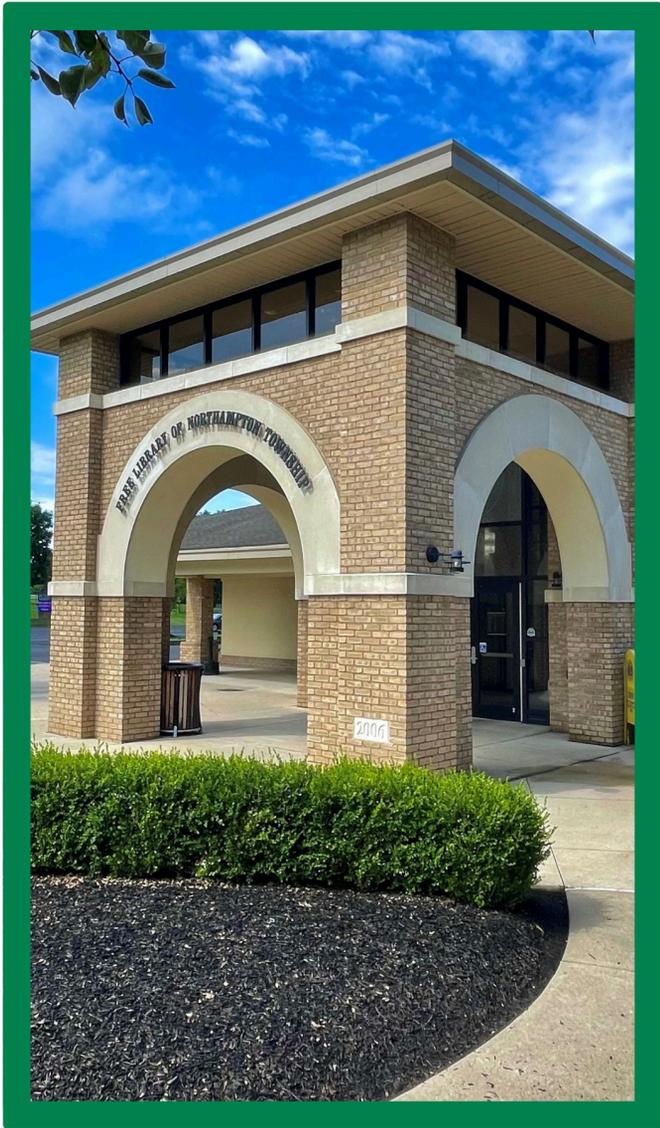


# TOWNSHIP OF NORTHAMPTON

## BUCKS COUNTY, PA



# 2026 Budget



# TOWNSHIP OF NORTHAMPTON BUCKS COUNTY, PA



# 2026 Budget

# 2026 Budget

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## **Northampton Township 2026 Executive Budget Summary**

Prepared by:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager

November 13, 2025

Township of Northampton

55 Township Road

Richboro, PA 18954

Phone: (215) 357-6800

[www.northamptontownship.com](http://www.northamptontownship.com)

# Elected & Appointed Officials

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## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### **Board of Supervisors**

Adam M. Selisker, Chairman  
Robert Salzer, Vice-Chairman  
Paula Gasper, Secretary  
Dr. Kimberly Rose, Treasurer  
Barry Moore, Member

### **Tax Collector**

Vincent Dion

### **Elected Auditors**

Elizabeth Youse  
Beth Rodman  
Kimberly Reif

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

### **Executive Officials**

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager  
William Wert, Assistant Township Manager  
Joseph Pizzo, Esq., Pizzo Rudolph, LLC, Township Solicitor  
Amanda Fuller, P.E., Gilmore & Associates, Township Engineer  
Dean Carr, Bowman, Township Engineer

### **Senior Management**

Steven LeCompte, Chief of Police  
Adam M. Selisker, Chief of Fire & Rescue  
Julie Narisi, Director of Finance  
Stacey Schwengels, Director of Human Resources  
Michael Solomon, Director of Building and Zoning  
Gregory Hucklebridge, Director of Public Works  
Jennifer Fean, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Wayne Lahr, Director of Library Services  
Mario Finocchiaro, General Manager Northampton Valley Country Club

# Executive Budget Summary

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## Introduction

It is my privilege to present the proposed 2026 Northampton Township Budget. This document reflects our community's shared priorities – protecting public safety, maintaining and improving our infrastructure, supporting recreation and library services, and continuing responsible financial management.

This year's budget is not simply a list of numbers; it's a plan to continue investing in what makes Northampton Township a great place to live – our people, our safety, our parks, and our public spaces.

Our Township made tremendous progress in 2025. We completed renovations to the basketball and roller hockey courts and constructed six pickleball courts at Municipal Park. We improved ten miles of Township roads, constructed new sidewalks along Second Street Pike, and naturalized the Northampton Crossing detention basin, all while making advancements in other long-term infrastructure projects that will serve our residents for decades.

We finalized negotiations and executed two new collective bargaining agreements with our police and public works department employees, and completed a 3-year strategic plan for our library. We put forth an agreement of sale for the former police station property that will be developed as a mini town center, an exciting addition to downtown Richboro, and we approved a development plan for the former Mill Race Inn property.

The 2026 Budget builds upon that momentum. It continues to invest in public safety, roads, parks, and facilities while maintaining strong fiscal health and quality services without reducing programs.

As always, this budget reflects our collective values: Safety, Service, and Stewardship.

## Budget Summary

The 2026 Northampton Township budget is designed to sustain and improve the quality of life that residents expect. It provides a financial roadmap for Township operations, capital improvements and community services in the coming year.

The total proposed budget for all funds is \$66.3 million. This includes:

- \$44.1M for operating expenses (police, fire, EMS, public works, recreation, library, administration, and debt)
- \$13.8M for proprietary funds (waste collection and country club operations)
- \$5.4M for capital projects and equipment
- \$3M for pension obligations

There are no proposed service reductions or changes in staffing levels.



## Township Operations and Financial Highlights

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The Township continues to demonstrate strong financial management and operational stability across all departments. Earned income and real estate transfer taxes remain robust sources of revenue, while real estate taxes maintain an impressive 99% collection rate—a reflection of the community’s continued commitment to supporting local services. In addition, state aid for the Township’s pension system came in higher than expected, helping to strengthen our already solid financial position.

While revenues remain steady, some categories show fluctuations. Permit fees are projected to fall slightly below budget this year, and the Township continues to experience rising costs in areas such as information technology. Engineering expenses also exceeded initial projections, driven by higher-than-anticipated permit inspection activity, grant application and administration work, stormwater complaint investigations, and unplanned traffic signal and intersection improvements. These costs are partially offset by grant reimbursements tied to infrastructure projects.

On the personnel side, Township departments have made significant strides. The Police Department is fully staffed for the first time in five years, and the Fire Department—together with the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad—has achieved certification as a Rescue Task Force, Level 3, allowing emergency responders to provide faster medical care during active shooter or other high-risk incidents. The Public Works Department is operating at full strength for the first time in several years. A new collective bargaining agreement that rewards skills and abilities rather than seniority has further enhanced efficiency and performance within the department.



Employee compensation remains competitive, with average wage increases of 3.5% for non-union employees. Wage increase, for union employees is governed by their respective collective bargaining agreements. These increases average 3.5% to 5.8%.

Workers’ compensation and liability insurance costs are projected to decrease by 4% in 2026, while medical insurance rates will rise by approximately 6.8%. There are modest appropriation changes for materials, supplies, and utilities with lease and contracted service costs increasing by about 6.4%. Professional services are expected to rise by 21%, primarily due to engineering costs associated with ongoing infrastructure work. A portion of these costs are reimbursable through grant funding.



The Township's enterprise operations remain strong. Northampton Valley Country Club continues to operate as a self-supporting facility funded by user fees. Although banquet revenues have been below expectations, the addition of the new wedding gardens is anticipated to attract more events and increase wedding bookings in 2026 and beyond. Likewise, the Library and Parks and Recreation Department, including the Senior Center, continues to engage thousands of residents annually through a wide range of educational, cultural, and recreational programs.

Solid waste management costs also remain stable. The Board approved a one-year extension of the Whitetail Disposal contract, maintaining current service levels without an increase to the refuse collection fee. Meanwhile, payments on short-term leases and long-term bonds will remain unchanged, marking the third consecutive year without new short-term borrowing for equipment. All existing short-term debt is scheduled to be fully satisfied by 2027. These short term loans funded equipment acquisition.



The Township's pension plans are another point of financial strength. Both the police and non-uniformed employee plans are 95% funded, and investment income has consistently outperformed the assumed rate of return, keeping pension costs steady and predictable.

Finally, the Township continues to invest in long-term infrastructure and capital improvements. Fifteen projects are currently in various stages of engineering design and permitting, including the new traffic signal at Route 332 and St. Leonard's Road, which is now under contract. Six additional projects are scheduled for construction in 2026, many of which are funded wholly or in part by federal and state grants.

Together, these initiatives reflect a balanced approach—maintaining essential public safety services, supporting cost-effective community programs, and investing in the infrastructure that will serve Northampton Township residents for years to come.

## Public Safety: Protecting What Matters Most

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Public safety remains at the core of the Township's mission. It is our first priority both in investment and vision. The proposed budget continues to fund the personnel, equipment, and facilities necessary to provide this critical public service and keep our community safe. The readiness of our emergency service agencies to respond to calls for service is paramount. Here are some basic facts about our public safety departments:

### Police Services

Our Police Department continues to exemplify excellence in service and professionalism. As an accredited agency with 47 sworn officers and 12 civilian staff, the department responds to approximately 20,000 calls for service each year. Officers serve not only as protectors, but as partners in the community, working closely with residents, schools, and local organizations to maintain trust and enhance safety.

Two School Resource Officers—one at Council Rock South High School and another at Holland Middle School—provide a consistent presence in our schools, helping to educate students about safety and assisting staff in maintaining secure learning environments.

With the addition of new officers in 2025, the minimum patrol staffing level has increased from four to five officers per shift, ensuring faster response times and stronger neighborhood coverage, there was a 5% reduction in reportable crimes in the past year. The new five-year collective bargaining agreement further supports recruitment and retention, strengthening the department's ability to meet community needs.

Traffic safety remains a core focus of the department. In the past 12 months, officers conducted over 3,600 enforcement details and issued more than 5,800 citations and warnings, concentrating efforts at high-accident areas and locations identified through resident feedback. In addition, the Department investigated over 700 traffic accidents and conducted more than 20 traffic studies to identify problems and recommend mitigation solutions.

The department also continues to invest in technology and training, including ongoing funding for body and vehicle cameras, and the deployment of drone units for search operations, traffic assessments, and incident documentation. The K-9 team plays an important role as well, assisting with drug and bomb detection, locating missing individuals, and supporting arrests during active investigations.

Together, these initiatives reinforce a policing philosophy grounded in community engagement, professionalism, and proactive service.





## Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The Township's Fire and Rescue services continue to set the standard for preparedness and response. With two fully staffed fire stations and a dedicated EMS facility providing 24/7 emergency coverage, residents can count on rapid, professional response to any emergency.

Since January 1, the Fire Department responded to 1,211 calls for service, including 857 fire calls and 354 QRS calls. During the same period, the Rescue Squad responded to 2,345 emergency medical calls.

Our Fire Department consistently meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, ensuring firefighter crews leave the station within 80 seconds of dispatch and have 15 qualified personnel on scene within nine minutes. Average response time Township-wide is an impressive five minutes—a performance that directly translates to lives saved and property protected.

The department's 38 full-time firefighters, all of whom are trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), provide life-saving care before ambulances arrive. Each shift includes five firefighters in Richboro and four in Holland, with per diem staff filling in as needed to minimize overtime costs and maintain full coverage.

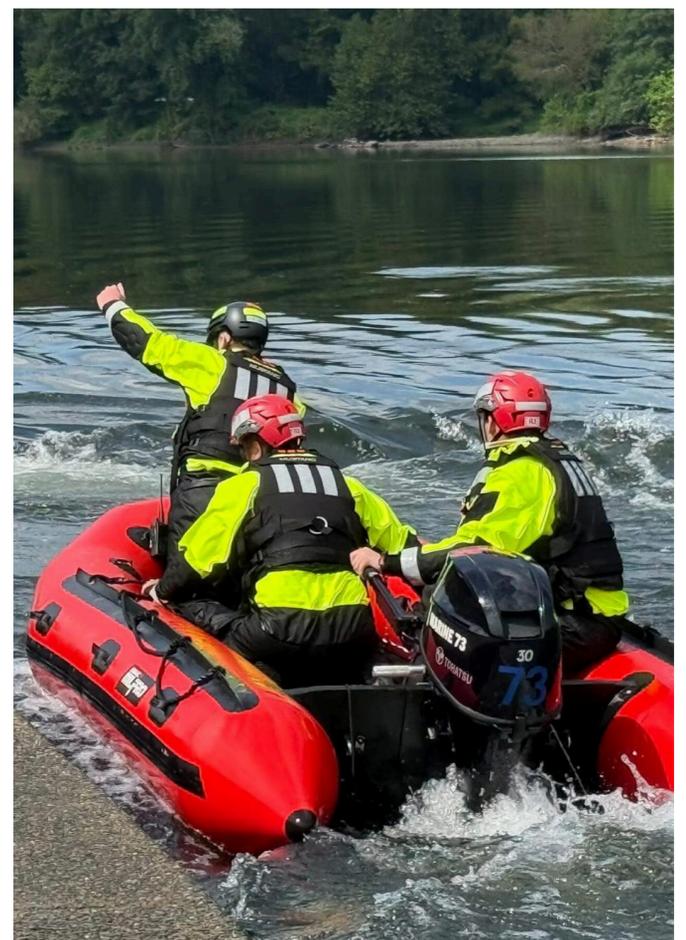
Both the Fire Department and Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad are now certified as a Rescue Task Force, Level 3, allowing them to operate jointly in high-risk incidents such as active shooter events — providing emergency medical care more quickly to those in need. The addition of a dedicated ambulance unit at the Holland Fire Station during peak hours has already reduced response times by more than 30%.

The hiring of a Deputy EMS Chief has further enhanced coordination, training, and teamwork between fire and rescue services. We know that the current EMS model is unsustainable, and this new position provides an opportunity to assimilate EMS services into Township operations more easily and quickly, when necessary, in the future.

Our emergency response system benefits from strong regional collaboration. Northampton Township participates in a countywide mutual aid network, which ensures that police, fire, and EMS resources can be shared across municipal boundaries when major incidents occur. This cooperation remains a cornerstone of public safety throughout Bucks County.

While the cost of maintaining a modern public safety network continues to grow, these investments are essential to protecting more than 40,000 residents. Our emergency personnel are highly trained, well-equipped, and deeply committed to the Township's mission of service. Their professionalism and dedication ensure that Northampton Township remains one of the safest and most responsive communities in the region.

The cost of providing additional resources for public safety has increased, but these services are built on the risk profile of protecting the community. Emergency preparedness and responsive public safety services rely on the availability of well-equipped and trained personnel to respond to emergency situations. There is no question that our emergency services personnel meet these requirements. They are clearly dedicated to our mission.



## Infrastructure & Public Works: Investing in Our Community

Northampton Township's infrastructure – 183 miles of roads, 97 miles of storm sewers, 257 acres of parkland, 18 different buildings, 31 traffic signals, and preserved open spaces represents decades of public investment. Together, these assets form the foundation of daily life in our community. Maintaining these assets is a challenging task, but the Township's Public Works Department continues to meet that challenge efficiently and cost-effectively, completing much of the work in-house to stretch every taxpayer dollar. The department also maintains the Township's fleet of vehicles and equipment. The department has 30 employees working in four divisions – Roads, Parks, Facilities and Fleet Maintenance.

### Roads and Stormwater Systems

In 2025, the Township continued its commitment to maintaining safe and well-paved streets by improving 10 miles of roadway, consistent with our 20-year road resurfacing cycle. Another 10 miles of work is already planned for 2026. This year, \$1.9 million was invested in paving, micro-surfacing, and the use of a new, long-lasting road product known as Nova Chip—also called ultra-thin bonded wearing course. Applied to sections of Middle Holland Road, this innovative surface treatment extends the life of well-conditioned roads for an additional decade or more.



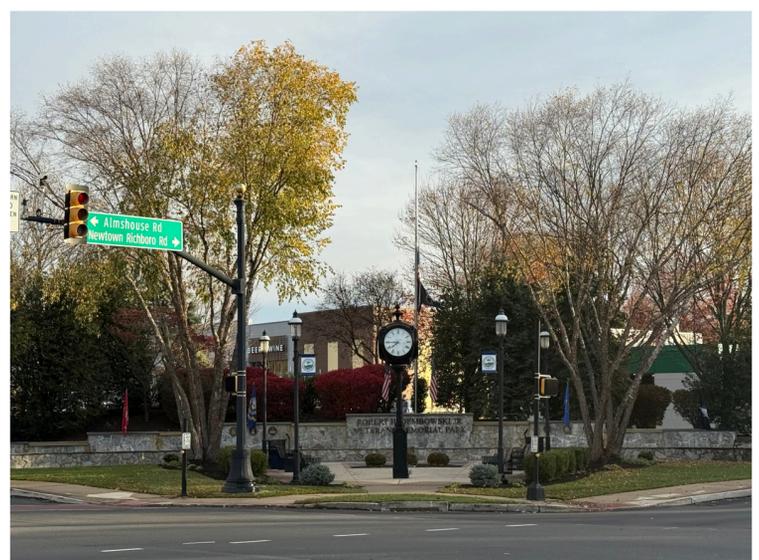
Before paving begins, crews conduct storm inlet repairs and preventive maintenance to ensure proper drainage and maximize roadway longevity. In 2025 alone, 49 stormwater inlets were repaired, including 32 directly related to this year's paving program. These preventive steps help preserve the Township's infrastructure and reduce the long-term cost of major road reconstruction.

### Parks Maintenance and Improvements

The Public Works Department also maintains the Township's vibrant park system, ensuring that public spaces remain safe, attractive, and accessible. In 2025, crews repaired approximately 950 linear feet of walking paths at Municipal Park, addressing cracks and repaving asphalt paths used daily by walkers, runners, and families. Another 1,000 feet of path repairs are scheduled for 2026.

Tree planting continues to be a point of pride for the Department, with 355 trees planted across Township parks in the last three years—a mix of native species that strengthen our local ecosystem. 236 saplings were planted in 2023; an additional 68 trees in 2024, including 45 Green Giant arborvitae, and in 2025, 51 native bare-root trees were planted. The Department reports minimal loss among these plantings, a testament to careful planning and maintenance.

At Dembowski Memorial Park, crews made important landscape and hardscape improvements, including repairs to brick borders and concrete paths to remove trip hazards, irrigation system repairs, new grass turf, and updated landscape beds. These enhancements ensure that parks remain safe, beautiful, and available to be well-used by residents.



## Facilities Maintenance and Improvements

The Township's facilities require constant care, and the Public Works Department manages that responsibility with precision. Each of the 18 Township buildings are inspected quarterly, and nine backup generators located at key facilities are checked every two weeks to guarantee readiness in an emergency.

The Department also maintains over 100 HVAC units—ranging from boilers and garage heaters to rooftop air handlers and mini-split systems by performing filter replacements and coil cleaning on a quarterly basis. In 2025, the Department modernized building security with an upgraded Key Fob Access Control System at the Township Administration Building and new systems installed at both the Rescue Squad Building and Senior Center.

The Department also completed interior renovations at the Administration Building, including reconfiguring the copy room and the Finance Director's office to improve workflow. A renovation of the public meeting room is underway, incorporating important safety and security enhancements to ensure that meetings are accessible and secure for both staff and residents.



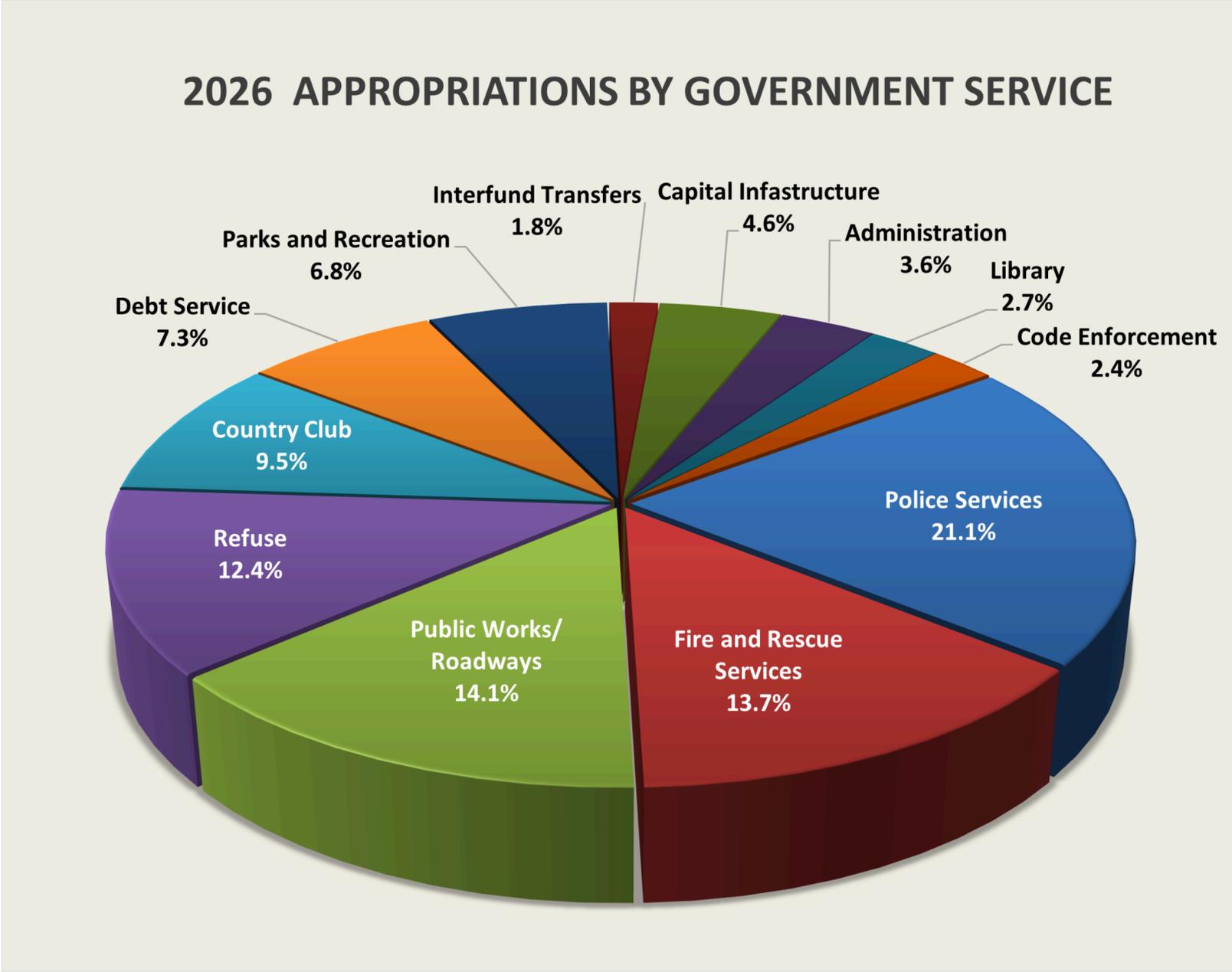
## Fleet Maintenance

Behind the scenes, Public Works keeps the Township's vehicles and equipment in top condition. The Department services and repairs all vehicles, including heavy construction equipment, maintenance trucks, support vehicles, and the entire police fleet. Each year, the Department performs state inspections on roughly 120 vehicles and trailers and services more than 320 pieces of equipment. This in-house expertise saves the Township thousands of dollars annually and ensures that vehicles and tools are ready to respond when needed most.

Through these coordinated efforts, the Public Works Department continues to safeguard Northampton Township's infrastructure, protecting the community's long-term investment while improving the everyday experience of residents.



Proposed appropriations for government services are distributed as follows:



### Major Infrastructure Projects

The Township has 15 planned infrastructure projects underway in various stages of design, permitting or construction. Here is a brief description of the more significant ones:



#### Second Street Pike/Bustleton Pike Roundabout & Township Road Realignment

This project will improve traffic flow along Second Street Pike between Almshouse Road and Bustleton Pike and relieve traffic congestion at Almshouse Road and Second Street Pike. PennDOT is completing final design and construction is targeted for 2028.

#### Buck Road Streetscape in Holland

This project will improve safety and traffic flow along Buck Road between Holland Road and Old Bristol Road. Utility relocation is underway with bridge and roadway construction targeted for 2027.

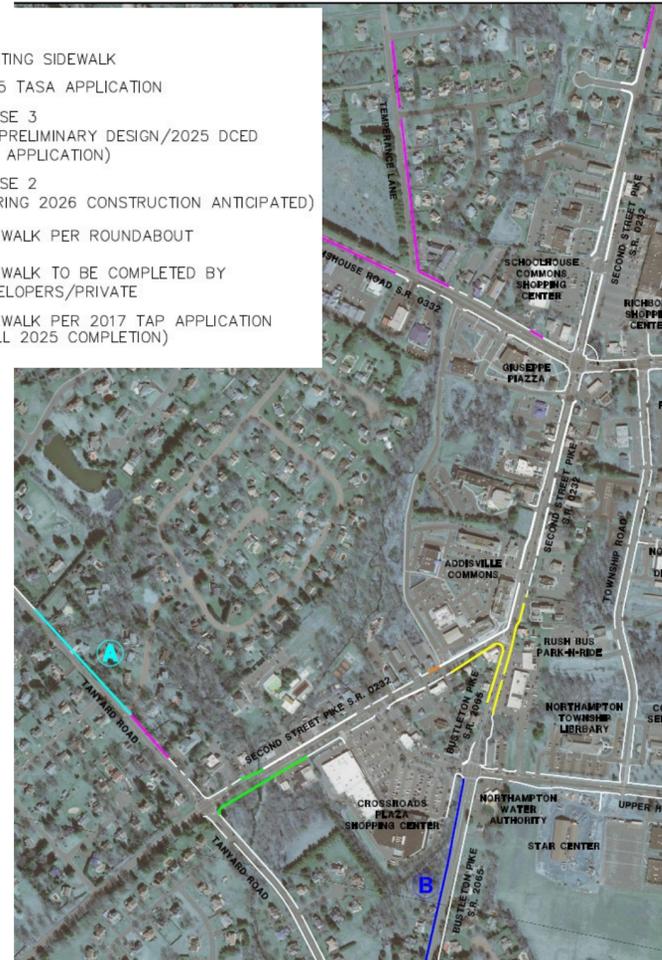
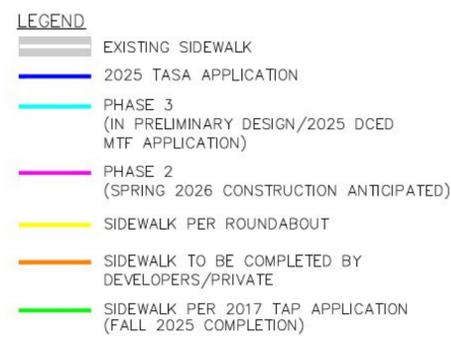
## Major Infrastructure Projects (Continued)

### Richboro Sidewalk Extensions (Phase 2)

This project will construct approximately 3,000 feet of sidewalk on Temperance Lane, Tanyard Road, Almshouse Road, Newtown-Richboro Road and Second Street Pike. All necessary easements have been acquired from property owners and bid documents are being finalized. The project is funded by a \$990,000 grant and construction is scheduled for 2026.

### Richboro Sidewalk Extensions (Phase 3)

This project will construct sidewalk on Bustleton Pike from Second Street Pike to Tanyard Road to further connect residential areas to downtown Richboro. The Township is working with five affected property owners to obtain necessary easements and has applied for a grant to fund design construction costs. If awarded a grant, project construction could begin in late 2027 or 2028.



### Iron Works Creek Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalks

This project completed sidewalk connections between Tanyard Road and Crossroads Plaza Drive connecting several neighborhoods to downtown Richboro. The project included installation of cantilevered sidewalks and bridge walls over Iron Works Creek. Construction was completed in October. The project was funded by a PennDOT grant for \$1.4 million.

### Jacksonville Road Almshouse Road Roundabout

This project is intended to address serious traffic congestion by improving traffic flow and turning movements at the intersection. The project was initiated by the Township and is fully funded by PennDOT. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.



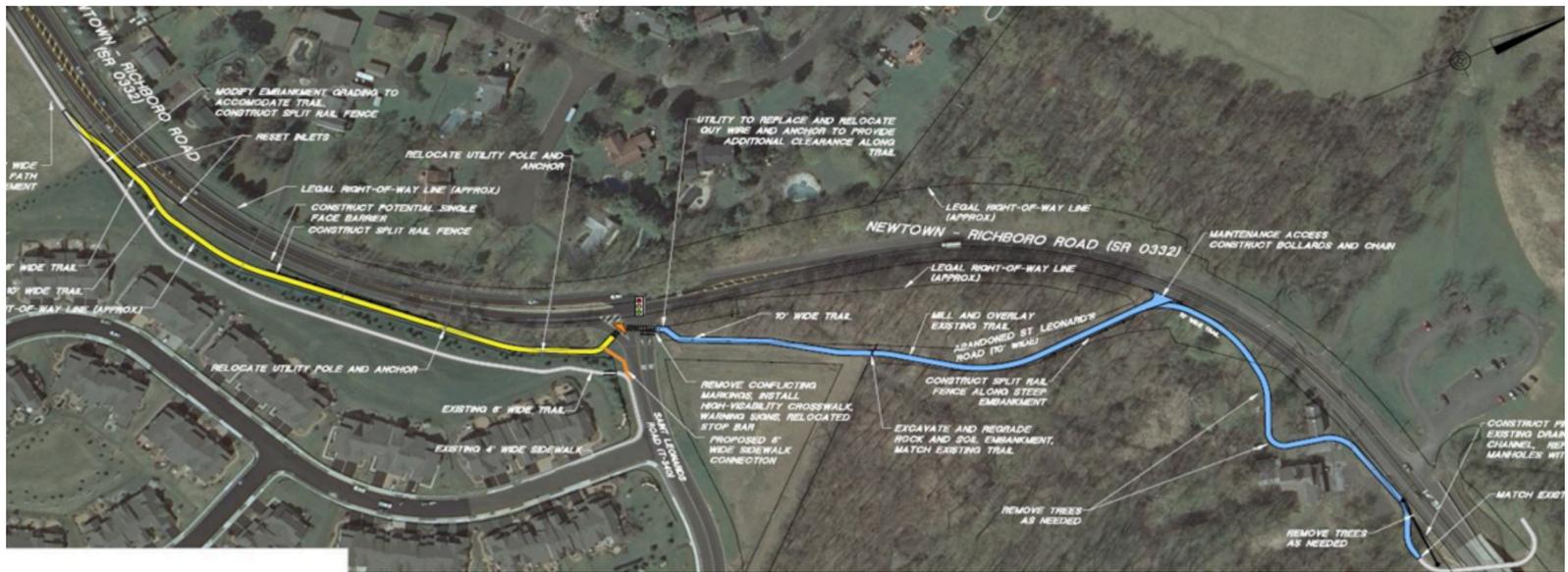
## Major Infrastructure Projects (Continued)

### Tyler State Park Trail Connection

This project will construct a trail along Newtown-Richboro Road from St. Leonard's Road to Tyler State Park by connecting to an existing walkway under the bridge over Neshaminy Creek. It is currently in the design and permitting phase. The Township received an \$825,000 grant for construction which is expected to begin in 2027.

### Route 332 Trail Connection

This project will construct a trail between St. Leonard's Road and Rock Way. The project is currently in design, and the Township has applied for a \$409,000 State grant to fund construction. If awarded, construction is expected in 2027.



### Lower Holland Road Bridge Replacement

This project will replace the existing Lower Holland Road bridge with a new structure. The Township received a \$1.4 million grant for construction. The project is currently in the design phase. Construction is scheduled for 2027.

### St. Leonard's Road

#### Newtown-Richboro Rd Traffic Signal

This project involves construction of a new traffic signal to address dangerous conditions at the intersection, which has a history of serious accidents. The project design includes pedestrian-friendly signalization that coordinates with adjacent trail projects.



### Newtown-Richboro Road

#### Fir Drive Pedestrian Signal

This project will install a pedestrian flashing signal and related crosswalks at Newtown-Richboro Road and Fir Drive, connecting to #1 Lane Trail in Tyler State Park. The design is complete, and the Township is waiting for easement documents to be executed by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Construction is scheduled for 2026.

## Major Infrastructure Projects (Continued)

### Traffic Signal and Intersection Improvements

The Township received two grants from PennDOT for over \$1.1 million to upgrade traffic signals and complete roadway realignments at the Buck Road/Middle Holland Road/Stonyford Road and Holland Road/Rock Way and Route 332 intersections. The work includes modern signal controllers, video detection, and pedestrian improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety. The projects are currently in design. Construction is scheduled for 2026.

### Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements

The Township has identified various intersections where pedestrian crossing features can be enhanced to improve safety. This includes improved signage and pavement markings, handicapped curb ramps, and possible flashing signals. The Township has applied for a state grant to fund these improvements. If awarded a grant, construction will occur in 2026.



In the last twelve years, the Township has secured more than \$42 Million in grant funds for infrastructure improvements, and continues to pursue grant opportunities whenever possible. The Township's Capital improvement Plan serves as a guide when budgeting for capital needs.

According to 2024 audited financial statements, the value of the Township's capital assets was approximately \$212 Million. Since 2018, the Township has appropriated between \$3.5 Million and \$6.5 Million annually to maintain or improve its capital infrastructure but relies heavily on state and federal grants for this purpose.



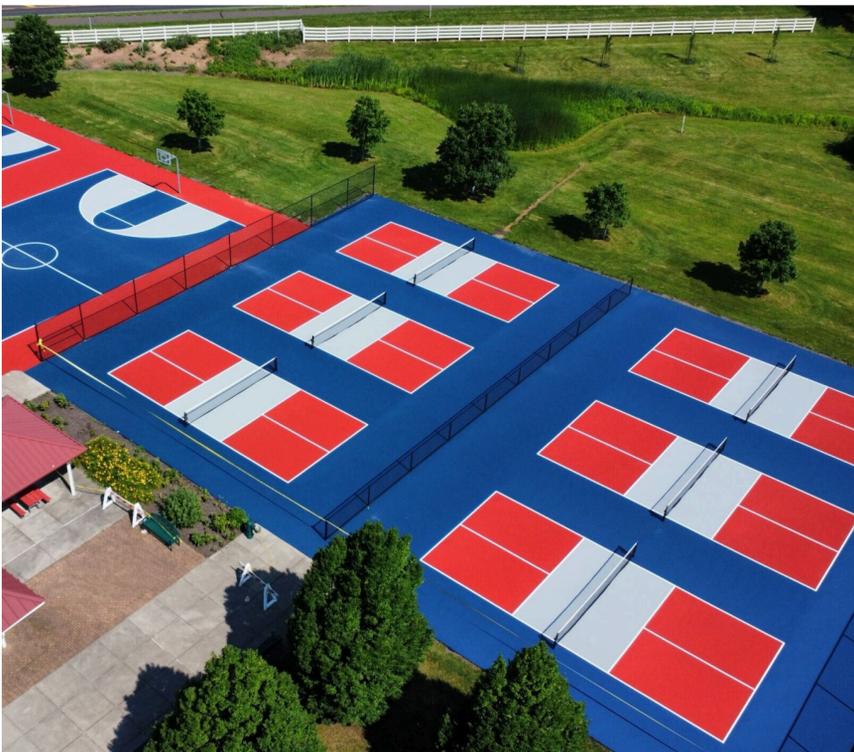
## Community Services

### Parks and Recreation: Connecting Our Community

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to play a vital role in building community connections and enhancing quality of life in Northampton Township. Active social media outreach has tripled engagement, boosted the attendance and increased community awareness. In 2025, participation reached new heights as more residents than ever took part in programs, events, and recreational opportunities across the Township.

Overall revenues increased by 22% compared to 2024, driven by strong public interest in a wide variety of programs and activities. Recreation program registrations rose by 15%, reflecting the Department's success in offering meaningful, family-friendly experiences for residents of all ages.

A highlight of 2025 was the completion of major park facility restorations at Municipal Park. The project included a full restoration of two basketball courts, the conversion of two courts into six new pickleball courts, and the complete resurfacing of the hockey rink. These improvements have transformed the park into one of the Township's most popular destinations. Since the new courts opened in mid-June, more than 8,000 people have enjoyed the facilities, representing a remarkable 56% increase in court usage from the previous year.



Summer camps continue to be the Department's most popular offering, accounting for 51% of all Parks and Recreation revenue and serving more than 800 children. Other programs—including preschool, swim club, and special events—make up 41% of total revenue, with the remainder generated through field and facility rentals, ticket sales, and community banner sponsorships.

The Northampton Township Senior Center also continues to thrive under the Parks and Recreation umbrella. In its first full year of integration, membership grew by 18%, new memberships increased 20%, and average daily attendance rose 28%. In 2025, the Center added three new exercise programs, along with expanded events and trips designed to keep members active and socially engaged. This fall, the Center will launch a new ceramics club, reviving the use of its long-dormant kiln and offering a creative new outlet for members.



Community-wide events remain a cornerstone of the Department’s mission to bring residents together. In 2025, two new celebrations—the “Sun and Fun Fest” in June and “Winterfest” in December—drew enthusiastic crowds and created opportunities for neighbors to gather and celebrate. Looking ahead, the Department is already planning a “Happy 250th Birthday, America!” celebration in 2026, bringing the total to three major annual community events.



The Department continues to face challenges with aging facilities that require significant maintenance and long-term investment. The Township remains committed to addressing these needs to ensure our parks and recreational spaces remain safe, accessible, and vibrant for future generations.

## Free Library of Northampton: A Year of Growth and Innovation

The Free Library of Northampton Township remains a cornerstone of community life, offering programs and resources that educate, connect, and inspire residents. In 2025, the library continued its upward trend in both usage and achievement, advancing major goals outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Through October, circulation reached more than 252,000 items representing a 7.2% increase over last year. This is driven by an improved print collection and growing use of the Libby app for e-books and audiobooks. Over the course of the year, the library welcomed 142,000 visitors, up 1.3%, and is on pace to meet its goal of 170,000 visitors by year-end. Adult programming grew 10%, with 266 events and more than 4,000 attendees, all managed without additional staff. Other areas also saw steady growth: Wi-Fi usage rose 25.5%, volunteer hours increased 2.1% to more than 3,100, and the popular Book A Librarian service expanded by 9%.



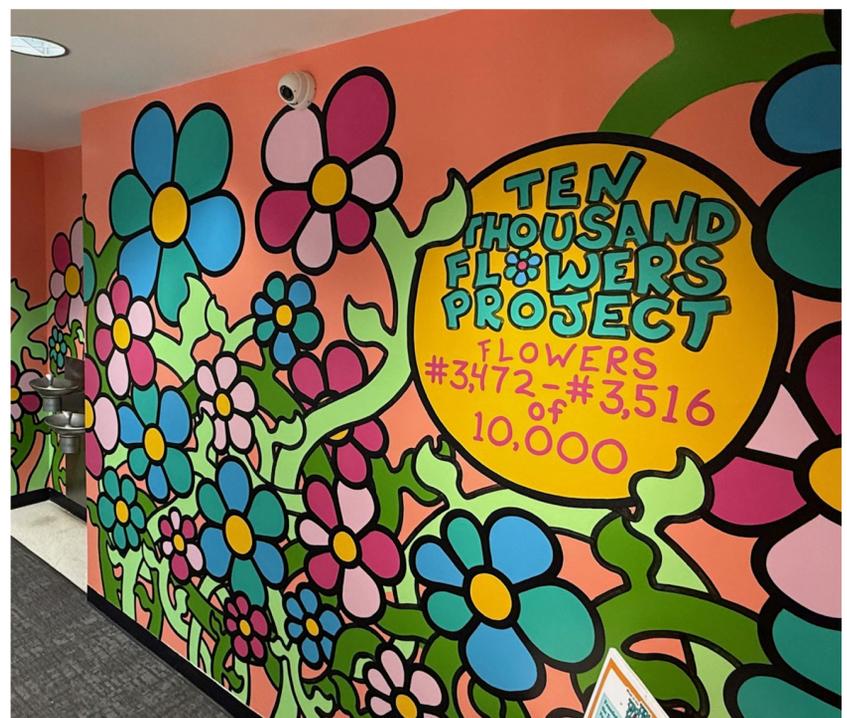


A major accomplishment this year was the completion of a Feasibility Study exploring future facility renovations and outdoor space development to accommodate increasing use. The process energized staff, the Library Board, and Township administration with a shared vision for the library's future.

Progress also continued under Strategic Plan Priority #3 - Effective Communication. Working with the SWELL Agency of Philadelphia, the library completed a branding initiative that introduced a new logo, tagline, and design toolkit. These updates guided the creation of a new website, launched in September, which received enthusiastic feedback from patrons for its fresh look and improved usability.

The library remains deeply community-focused by offering test proctoring, meeting room reservations, and growing daytime use of public spaces for virtual work and study. It also continues to host English as a Second Language and Citizenship classes in partnership with Welcoming the Stranger, supporting inclusion and lifelong learning.

Through innovation, collaboration, and dedication, the Free Library of Northampton Township continues to evolve by expanding access, enriching lives, and meeting the needs of a growing community.



## Proprietary Funds: Services That Are Self-Supporting

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Not every Township service relies on tax dollars. Two major operations – Refuse Collection and the Northampton Valley Country Club – operate entirely through user fees, allowing them to remain financially self-sufficient while continuing to deliver high-quality services to residents.

### Waste Collection and Disposal Services

Northampton Township continues to provide residents with a comprehensive and dependable waste collection program designed to keep neighborhoods clean and well maintained. Each week, households receive pickup of trash, recycling, yard waste, and bulk items, ensuring convenient and consistent service for the entire community.

Most homes now benefit from automated collection, which has modernized operations and greatly improved efficiency. This system reduces litter, minimizes spillage, prevents empty containers from being left in the street, and decreases the risk of injury to collection crews. Approximately 10,600 households receive automated service, while an additional 2,400 homes in higher-density residential developments continue to receive manual collection to meet their specific needs.

The Township’s solid waste management program is supported through four separate contracts, ensuring specialized handling for each service component. Whitetail Disposal, which began collection and transportation services in January 2023, will continue to provide front-line service to Township residents through 2026, with an option to extend the contract for one more year. Additional agreements include Waste Management for yard waste disposal and recycling material processing, while Win-Waste, Inc. manages household trash disposal.

Residents also take advantage of seasonal yard waste collection offered from April 15 through December 15 each year. This separate pickup allows for the environmentally responsible disposal of leaves, grass clippings, and other organic materials, helping reduce landfill waste and promoting sustainability across the Township.



Importantly, the annual household collection fee remains \$575, with no increase planned through 2027. This stability reflects Northampton Township’s strong fiscal management and commitment to maintaining high-quality public services without additional financial burden to residents.

Through careful planning, competitive contracts, and a continued focus on efficiency, Northampton Township delivers a waste management program that is both cost-effective and environmentally responsible—keeping our community clean, sustainable, and proud.

## Northampton Valley Country Club

The Northampton Valley Country Club continues to thrive as a self-supporting, Township-owned enterprise. Each year, golfers play more than 52,000 rounds, making the club one of the busiest in the region. Growth in the food and beverage operations has helped offset a slower banquet market, demonstrating the Club's ability to adapt to changing trends in recreation and hospitality.

Looking ahead, the addition of outdoor ceremonial gardens will enhance the Club's appeal as a premier venue for weddings and special events. This improvement supports continued growth in event bookings and positions the Club for long-term success, with currently booked events for 2026 outpacing prior years.

Beyond recreation, the Country Club also contributes directly to the Township's financial health. Its operations help offset administrative costs and has provided annual funding toward Township debt service, ensuring the facility continues to benefit residents in more ways than one.



## Fiduciary Funds: Investing in Our Workforce

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In addition to operational services, the Township manages Fiduciary Funds that protect the long-term financial security of Township employees. These funds are held in trust for pension benefits and are separate from the Township's general operations. While Proprietary Funds are supported by user fees, Fiduciary Funds are supported by tax revenue and cannot be used for other municipal purposes.

Police officers participate in a defined benefit pension plan governed by State Act 600, which establishes minimum benefits for municipal police departments with more than three full-time officers. Non-uniformed employees are covered by two separate plans depending on their hire date – a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. The defined contribution plan was introduced in 2015 and is now the standard for newer employees. Public Works employees hired after March 1, 2019, are enrolled in the defined contribution plan in accordance with their collective bargaining agreement.

Both the police and non-uniformed employee plans are 95% funded, and investment income has consistently outperformed the assumed rate of return, keeping pension costs steady and predictable. Through careful management and consistent investment, Northampton Township ensures that all employee pension obligations are responsibly funded, protecting both the Township's financial stability and the well-being of its dedicated workforce.



## Budget Revenues at a Glance

Northampton Township continues to uphold a strong tradition of fiscal responsibility and transparent management, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are invested wisely in essential services, community programs, and long-term infrastructure.

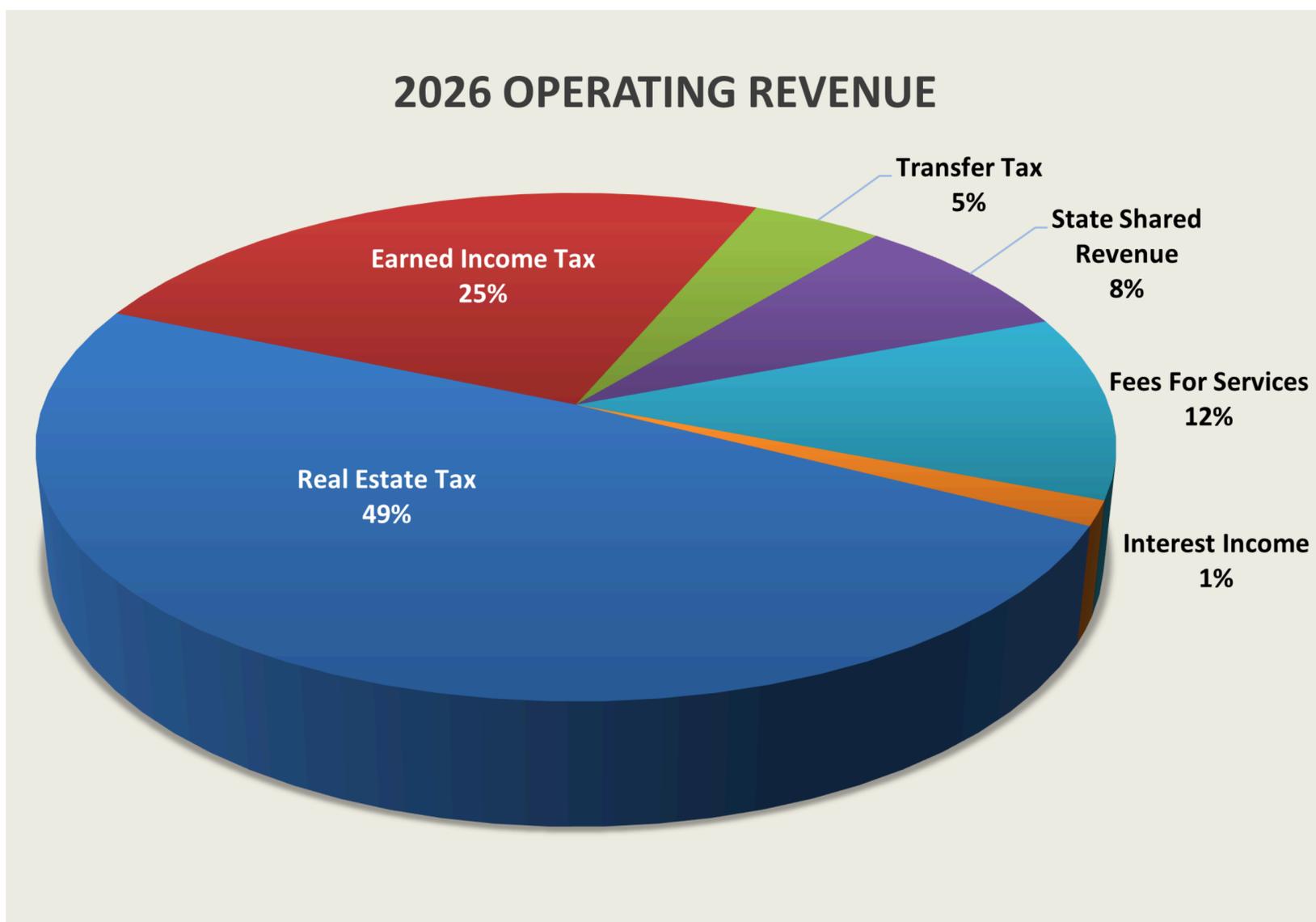
Total operating revenue in 2026 is projected at just under \$43 million. The primary revenue sources for the Township are real estate taxes, earned income taxes, transfer taxes, state shared revenue, fees for services, and interest income. These revenue sources fund all township operations. Infrastructure improvements are primarily funded through state grants.

Earned income taxes are projected to grow by 3% next year while transfer taxes are expected to slightly decline. While permit fees are not projected to meet budget expectations in 2025, there is expected improvement next year. State shared revenue increased by \$140,000 in 2025 due to an unexpected increase in pension system state aid.

To support expanded emergency services, the proposed budget includes a 2.75 mill tax adjustment, ensuring continued support for public safety while balancing the need for sustainability of public services.

Both the Refuse Collection and Northampton Valley Country Club Funds continue to operate as self-supporting proprietary funds, funded entirely through user fees rather than local tax dollars.

The following chart shows projected operating revenue in 2026 for all Township funds:



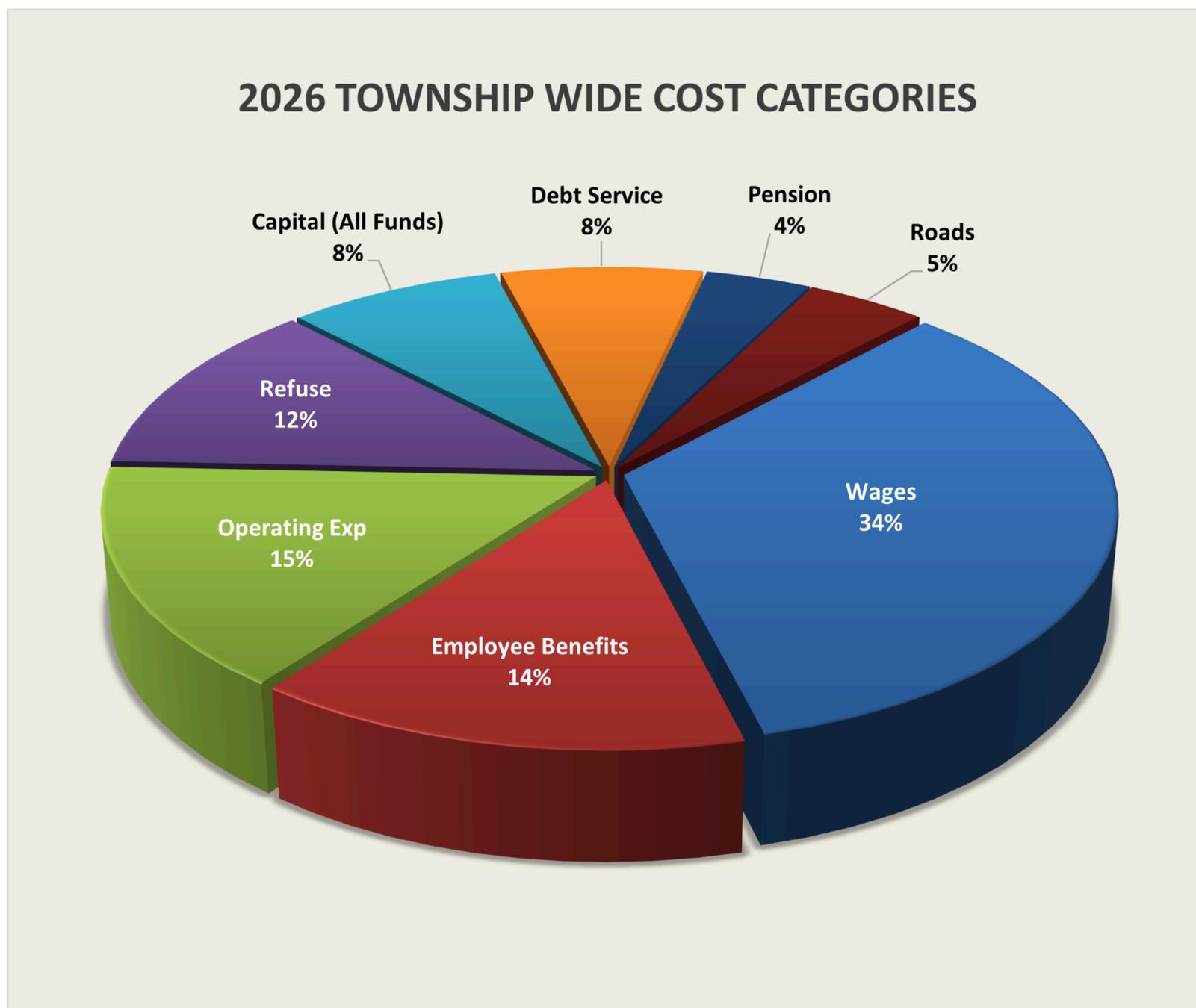
Operating appropriations for 2026 total \$44 million, with personnel costs representing approximately 52% of total spending. It is the single largest expense in the Township budget. This investment underscores the Township's commitment to maintaining a professional, well-trained workforce capable of delivering high-quality services across all departments.

Operating appropriations, including insurance, utilities, legal and engineering services, repairs and maintenance, materials and supplies, contracted services, motor fuels, road salt, paving materials, minor equipment, and training represent an additional 20% of the total budget.

Refuse collection and waste disposal services are 12% of the total budget. Debt service represents an additional 8% of the total, and capital appropriations represent 8%.

Importantly, the 2026 Budget maintains all Township services without reduction and includes no increase in refuse collection fees, continuing the Township's record of stable, cost-effective operations.

Together, these appropriations reflect a balanced investment in public safety, infrastructure, recreation, and community services—areas that directly enhance the quality of life for all residents.



Wages and employee benefits comprise 52% of the total budget, while debt service remains at a manageable 8%. Operating expenses such as consumable supplies are an additional 15% of the total.

# Assessed Valuation and Real Estate Taxes

## A Word About Assessed Valuation

The dollars generated from real estate tax levies are determined by the assessed valuation of each community. This valuation is determined by the County Board of Assessment Office. The current assessed valuation for tax purposes in the Township is \$597.8 million. This figure does not represent the true market value of real estate in the community because the County Government has not completed a real estate reassessment since the 1970's. Instead, the Board of Assessment applies a common level ratio to existing assessed values for use in calculating real estate tax revenue.

The assessed value of real estate in the Township was significantly affected by the 2008 market decline so much so that the current assessed valuation is still \$1 million lower than it was in 2010. This required the Township to increase its millage rate in the last 15 years to simply generate the same real estate tax revenue dollars. We expect the assessed valuation will finally exceed 2010 levels by 2027 or 2028 as new land developments add to the tax base.

## Real Estate Taxes: Where Your Tax Dollars Go

State law limits municipal tax levies in the Commonwealth. The real estate tax levy for general purposes is limited to 14 mills (an additional 5 mills is permitted with Court approval). The tax levy for fire services is limited to 10 mills and the emergency medical services tax to 5 mills; any additional funding for these services must come from the General Fund. The road equipment tax levy is capped at 2 mills. There is no statutory limit on levies for parks & recreation, or debt service.

The total Township real estate tax levy will be 35.25 mills if the proposed Budget is approved as presented. For a home assessed at the Township median value of \$40,000, the 2026 real estate tax bill will total \$1,410 per year, or \$117 per month: an increase of \$110 annually.

The total tax millage is allocated as follows:

Administration, Police, Zoning & Public Works Services	10.00 mills	\$400
Fire and Emergency Medical Services	11.25 mills	\$450
Library Services	2.40 mills	\$96
Parks and Recreation Services	2.93 mills	\$117
Road Maintenance Services	1.00 mills	\$40
Public Works Equipment	0.57 mills	\$23
Debt Service	7.10 mills	\$284
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	35.25 mills	\$1,410

### MONTHLY TOWNSHIP SERVICES



#### 2026 TAX BILL BREAKDOWN

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SERVICE	COST
● <b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$65.23</b>
Police	\$34.53
Public Works	\$20.77
Administration	\$5.92
Code Enforcement	\$4.00
● <b>Fire/EMS</b>	<b>\$22.49</b>
● <b>Debt</b>	<b>\$11.94</b>
● <b>Parks</b>	<b>\$11.08</b>
● <b>Library</b>	<b>\$4.38</b>
● <b>Road Maintenance</b>	<b>\$1.52</b>
● <b>Road Equipment</b>	<b>\$0.86</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$117.50</b>

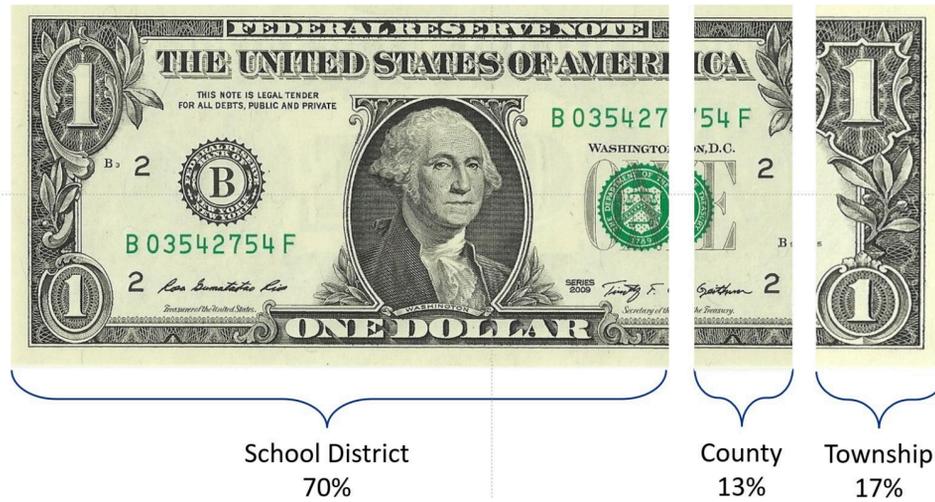
**Above is an estimate of monthly costs for Township services.**

**This is based on the average residential property assessed at \$40,000 in 2026.**

It is important to note that your local tax dollars are distributed to three taxing district:

- 70% to the Council Rock School District
- 13% to Bucks County Government
- 17% to Northampton Township

The tax dollars received by the Township fund all Township services, including police, fire and EMS, roads, parks and recreation, the library, and public works.



Through prudent financial management, stable reserves, and careful investment in essential services, Northampton Township continues to maintain a strong financial foundation while providing the responsive, high-quality services residents expect and deserve.

## Conclusion

The proposed 2026 Budget reflects Northampton Township’s continued commitment to delivering exceptional service and maintaining the high quality of life that residents value. It builds on the goals set by the Board of Supervisors—to keep our community safe, strengthen our local economy, maintain well-paved roads, expand parks and recreation opportunities, support lifelong learning through our Library, preserve open spaces, and ensure that our Country Club remains a place for residents to gather and create lasting memories.

Public safety remains at the heart of the Township’s mission. The 2026 Budget continues to invest in the people, equipment, and facilities that protect lives and property every day. At the same time, the Budget supports economic revitalization, funding infrastructure and transportation improvements that make our roadways safer, reduce congestion, and encourage new business development to strengthen the local tax base.

Across every department, Township employees continue to deliver efficient, responsive, and high-quality service. Their teamwork and dedication ensure that Northampton Township remains a well-managed community that residents are proud to call home.

We extend sincere thanks to the Board of Supervisors, department directors, and Township staff for their thoughtful work in developing this Budget, the most important policy document adopted each year.

The 2026 Budget provides the resources needed to sustain essential services, invest in our future, and uphold the Township’s long-standing commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of every resident. It is a financial plan built on responsibility, transparency, and community pride.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert M. Pellegrino*

Robert M. Pellegrino  
Township Manager