Douglass Township, Montgomery County
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2027 BUDGET MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2026
2:00PM

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP BUILDING
1320 E PHILA AVE
GILBERTSVILLE PA 19525

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Meeting Policy Announcement
4. 2027 Budget Review
   a. General Fund
   b. Police
   c. Fire/Ambulance
   d. Planning and Zoning
   e. Highway
   f. Park/Recreation
   g. Liquid Fuels
   h. Recycling
   i. Street Light
   j. Fee Schedule
5. Public Comment
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING
October 16th, 2026

The 2027 Preliminary Budget Meeting began at 2:15pm. Attending were Chairman Josh Stouch, Vice Chairman Don Bergstresser, Supervisor Sara Carpenter, Kelly Faith, David Thompson, Chief Evans, Andrew Duncan, and McKenna Powanda. There were no residents in attendance.

Manager Thompson stated that interdepartmental meetings were held, they were well attended and a couple of tweaks were made to department budgets. Mr. Thompson stated that there is an estimate of up to an increase of 25% in health insurance, however we are hoping it will be much lower. The engineering increase has been revised to $60,000; the cable franchise income fee is looking to be decreased by $20,000. The police department is looking to purchase a vehicle for Chief Evans for travel back and forth to work and to immediately respond to emergencies for approximately $32,500, police vehicle repairs should be decreased by $4,000 due to new vehicles having warranties, the capital equipment purchases for the police is for the Traverse and Omega TDX upgrades, and wages have been increased. There was discussion of health insurance costs and what could be done to look at another insurance company. Due to the restrictive police retiree contracts, it is difficult to find another insurance company to take on the retiree plan. Mr. Thompson stated that the city & regional planning commission fees have been reduced by $2,000, and emergency management supplies have been reduced by $3,500. In the recycling budget there has been an increase in fuel costs, $1,500 for bobcat tires, and budgeted $20,000 for inside repairs to the recycling building. For parks we are looking to get new benches and a new mower for a total of $6,000. Mr. Thompson stated that we received a grant for $294,000 for the purchase of the Long Property. In the highway department the increases will be $50,000 more for snow and ice removal; for liquid fuels and increase of $75,000 for supplies for snow & ice removal, $10,00 for signs & supplies, $10,000 for traffic signal repair, $20,000 for line painting, $10,000 for storm sewers & drain repairs, $50,000 for repair of tools & machinery, $84,000 maintenance & repairs to roads and bridges, and $195,560 for highway construction & rebuild and we are looking at possibly tar & chipping the roads because this process lasts longer. The administration building renovations were discussed, and it was questioned why there couldn't only be some renovations to the meeting room and HVAC.

Overall, with the increase in insurance costs, fuel, wages, projected lower tax base income, Long Property purchase, truck body purchase, and building renovations we are looking at a projected deficit of 1.6 million. The Board asked the Treasurer to please make a compiled list of the cost differences for comparison. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

The next public meeting will be on Monday, October 19th, 2026 @ 7pm and Wednesday November 4th, 2026 @ 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marcy Meitzler