

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: Tina Sokolowski, Council President
Kathleen Kingsley, Council Vice-President
Anita Barton, Senior Council Member
Alan Chmielewski, Council Member
Stacy Ellam, Council Member
Ralph Frey, Council Member
Adrian Serna, Council Member
Yaniv Aronson, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Cecco, Borough Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Conshohocken Borough Council duly advertised, was held at the Conshohocken Borough Hall, 400 Fayette Street. Tina Sokolowski, Borough Council President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

BUDGET INFORMATION AND SUMMARY

Ms. Cecco provided an overview of the budget process and timeline. She discussed forecasted revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year. She reported that the proposed budget for the upcoming year is balanced, with revenues and expenditures projected to be equal. Ms. Cecco stated that the budget proposes an overall increase of 5.26% in expenditures and that the budget does not include a tax increase. She explained that the increase is primarily due to rising personnel, healthcare, and pension costs. She discussed the Borough’s current financial position which she explained supports a strong borrowing capacity and enables future capital investments.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Cecco shared that department directors and managers were present to discuss their departmental capital budget requests and proposed operational budgets specifically focusing on line items with a greater than 4% increase.

a.) Administrative Services

Angela Metz, Director of Administrative Services, discussed capital budget requests, which included technology upgrades. She presented the proposed operational budget for Administrative Services, which included increases related to office operating expenses, information technology and tax collection.

b.) Public Information and Special Events

Paul Gornowski, Communications Manager and Special Events Coordinator, had no capital or operational budget requests for FY 2026. He reviewed the special events calendar for the remainder of 2025 and for 2026.

c.) Recreation Services

Lauren Irizarry, Director of Recreation Services, presented capital budget requests for the Recreation Department, including the replacement of lights on the A-Field and B-Field, pavilion upgrades and playground safety surface improvements at Sutcliffe Park. She also outlined proposed Community Center improvements, such as new gymnasium lighting, kitchen and office renovations, and flooring upgrades.

Ms. Irizarry presented the department’s proposed operational budget, highlighting her request for increased funding for community organization operating expenses, software, and recreational supplies. She explained that the rise in operating costs is directly tied to higher participation rates, increased demand for services, and expanded personnel needs.

d.) Police Department

Dave Lennon, Police Chief, presented the capital budget requests for the Police Department, which included vehicles, equipment upgrades, facility improvements, software for license plate recognition cameras, ballistic vests, and a parking canopy.

Police Chief Lennon discussed the department’s operational budget, noting increases related to uniforms, vehicle repairs and maintenance, tactical team expenses, detective division costs, parking meter operations, and computer software contracts. He also provided an overview of overtime expenditures.

e.) Public Services, Emergency Management and Fire Services

Shauna Wylesol, Executive Director of Operations, she presented the Emergency Management capital budget requests, which included radios for EOC dispatch, vehicle barriers, a security system, firearm detection software, and a garage door for the administrative building. There were no operational budget requests exceeding the 4% increase threshold.

Tim Gunning, Director of Fire Services, and Steve Young, Deputy Fire Marshal, presented the Fire Department’s capital budget requests, which included gear packages, radios, a sonar imagery system, a highway vehicle stabilization kit, and repairs and upgrades for the high-water vehicle. Mr. Gunning reviewed the proposed operational budget, highlighting increases in office and operating supplies, fire equipment, training and meeting attendance, as well as membership dues and subscriptions.

Frank Perry, Director of Public Services, presented the capital budget requests for the Public Services Department, which included a compact wheel loader, Graco street machinery, crowd control barriers, a surface scrubber, scissor lift, truck and truck cap, Ventrac with snow blower, excavator attachments, skid steer attachments, and mature trees. He explained that the Stormwater Management Division is requesting funding for stormwater pipelining and vacuuming. He also reviewed the capital requests for the Buildings and Facilities Division, which included new carpeting for the Borough Administration Office. Mr. Perry then presented the proposed operational budget for Public Services, highlighting line items with increases greater than 4% in the Property and Building, Sanitation, Streets, Stormwater and Parks divisions. He noted that most of these increases are directly related to the growing number of Borough-owned properties and the corresponding increase in workload.

f.) Engineering, Grants, Zoning, and Recurring Capital

Ms. Cecco discussed recurring capital expenditures related to grant matching, general engineering capital projects, traffic engineering capital projects, Narberth Ambulance and the Conshohocken Cab.

Ms. Cecco reviewed operational line item increases related to association dues and professional development, and professional services for legal, engineering, tax collection and marketing.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AND ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Ms. Cecco reviewed general fund budget increases in overtime, consulting expenses, stormwater program costs, recreation program growth, pension obligations and seasonal hires. She also explained that no new positions are being requested, however funds are being allocated to support promotional efforts and staff development.

Ms. Cecco provided an overview of capital projects related to capital engineering, including the design, engineering, and financing of the Public Safety facility, the Veterans Memorial Plaza, and the road improvement program. She also discussed various Council initiatives. Additionally, Ms. Cecco outlined the grants the Borough is pursuing to help offset project costs. She reviewed available funding sources. Council reviewed and agreed upon the recommended list of capital budget items.

Council discussed the Conshohocken Cab shuttle service. Ms. Cecco explained that the service was established to support economic development, increase accessibility, and enable relaxed parking requirements in line with the Borough’s Comprehensive Plan and Main Street Overlay. Ms. Cecco emphasized the shuttle's role in long-term planning. She acknowledged current ridership is low but believes there is potential if the service is adjusted and better promoted. Ms. Ellam stressed that the shuttle is a public service and not intended to generate revenue. She suggested that the Cab be evaluated like other Borough programs that offer free amenities. Mr. Frey raised concerns about underutilization and called for clear usage metrics and potential route redesigns to improve convenience and impact. Ms. Sokolowski proposed designating service days for seniors to increase access for those with mobility challenges. Council agreed to continue the service through 2026 while exploring ways to improve it. The consensus was to use the next year to gather data, evaluate performance, and increase community awareness before making long-term decisions.

Ms. Cecco reviewed next steps in the budget process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary