

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

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 3.18% in expenditures and that the budget does not include a tax increase. She explained that the increase is primarily due to personnel, overtime, recreation, legal, IT, insurance, and debt service 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, presented the operational and capital budgets for Administrative Services. She noted operational budget increases for audits, copier leases, postage, computer services, and technology support due to new facilities, cybersecurity, and growing technology needs. She reviewed the department's capital budget requests for replacement PCs, emergency management laptops, Council tablets, and the primary administrative server.

b.) Public Information and Special Events

Paul Gornowski, Communications Manager and Special Events Coordinator, had no capital budget requests. He requested an increase in the community outreach budget to support growing attendance and expanded event needs and reviewed the 2027 special events calendar.

c.) Recreation Services

Lauren Irizarry, Director of Recreation Services, presented the Recreation Department capital requests, including resurfacing the Mary Wood Park walking path, and noted that A-field turf and Community Center roof repairs will be considered in the future. She reviewed operational increases for programs, telecommunications, transportation, supplies, and fitness instructor pay. Ms. Cecco shared that recreation revenues are performing well, with approximately 89% of budgeted revenue received as of the end of August.

d.) Police Department

Police Chief Lennon presented capital requests for three replacement vehicles, training supplies, technology, garage floor resurfacing, spare officer equipment, and three ballistic vests. He stated that the LPR camera agreement will continue under the existing five-year contract.

He reviewed overtime hours and confirmed no increase to the overtime budget.

Chief Lennon also reviewed operational budget increases for postage, vehicle maintenance, tactical team assessments, detective and DNA services, search software, community engagement, signage, building maintenance, parking, drug testing, and software contracts. He shared that department plans to develop an in-house animal control program in 2027 and explore additional SPCA services.

e.) Public Services, Emergency Management and Fire Services

Shauna Wylesol, Executive Director of Operations, presented Emergency Management capital requests for helipad lighting, camera upgrades, event safety bollards, and a portable light tower. 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 request for a new emergency response apparatus to replace the 2007 truck. Ms. Cecco noted a \$725,000 grant toward the cost. Mr. Young explained that the vehicle will support multiple emergency and public service operations and include command and rehabilitation areas. Chief Gunning reviewed operational increases for reporting software, certifications, and the Narberth Ambulance appropriation, which moved from capital to the general fund.

Frank Perry, Director of Public Services, presented the capital and operational requests for the Public Services Department. Capital requests included maintenance equipment, lighting and building upgrades, vehicles, a water trailer, a solar message board, and irrigation improvements at Sutcliffe Park. Ms. Cecco shared that the swap loader and trash truck may qualify for pending grants and that the irrigation project is being deferred due to recent grant funded improvements. Mr. Perry explained that the operating increases were mainly due to higher material, vehicle, equipment, technology, and snow removal costs, as well as additional properties and equipment being maintained.

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

Ms. Cecco reviewed the proposed FY2027 capital projects, including the construction of the Public Safety Facility, rehabilitation costs for a future Public Services facility, the 2027 road program, and design funding for the 2028 road program. Additional projects included MS4 permit-related work, pedestrian traffic improvements on Second Avenue, the Fayette Street Road Diet. Ms. Cecco noted that some projects may be delayed pending state approvals or the finalization of grant agreements.

g.) Borough Wide General Fund Expenditures

Ms. Cecco reviewed the proposed FY2027 operating budget, noting that pensions, personnel, and healthcare continue to account for the Borough's largest expenses. She discussed anticipated revenue, staffing considerations, and maintaining the current tax rate. She stated that no new full-time positions are proposed for 2027. She also reviewed the Borough's road improvement program, highlighting past investments in road projects and plans for continued improvements over the next several years.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AND ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Ms. Cecco discussed potential future staffing needs, the Mary Wood Park Trust, and performance evaluations and merit increases for non-union employees.

Ms. Cecco discussed funding sources for the 2027 capital budget, which includes funding from borrowing, available capital funds and prior loan balances, grants, interest income, and other sources.

Ms. Cecco reviewed the departmental FY2027 capital budget requests and recommended removing several items. She emphasized the importance of monitoring revenues and exercising caution with future spending.

Borough Council discussed whether to continue funding the Conshohocken Cab service in the FY2027 budget. Council reviewed the service's low ridership and annual cost of \$260,000. While acknowledging the service's importance to some residents and its original purpose, Council agreed that current ridership levels do not justify the continued expense. Council decided to remove funding for the Conshohocken Cab from the FY2027 budget and discontinue the service at the end of 2026. Council also discussed options for connecting current users with county and regional transportation programs.

Council then reviewed the remaining capital budget items. Council also discussed the proposed trash truck replacement. Mr. Sokolowski discussed the age of the existing fleet, the availability of spare vehicles and replacement timelines. Ms. Cecco explained potential grant funding. Following the discussion, Council agreed not to include funding for the trash truck in the FY2027 budget at this time.

Ms. Cecco reviewed next steps in the budget process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Stephanie Cecco,
Borough Secretary