

TRASH OPTION PRESENTATION

Clarks Summit Borough

5/17/2023 Town Hall

PRESENTATION AGENDA

1. Rules of order
2. What tax money does the borough receive?
3. How is that money used?
4. What benefits do residents receive?
5. How has the Borough tax rate changed?
6. What does the state allow for taxation?
7. What options do we have available for trash pickup?
8. How will these options affect the budget?
9. How can we reduce our trash?
10. Public Comment:

Rules of Order

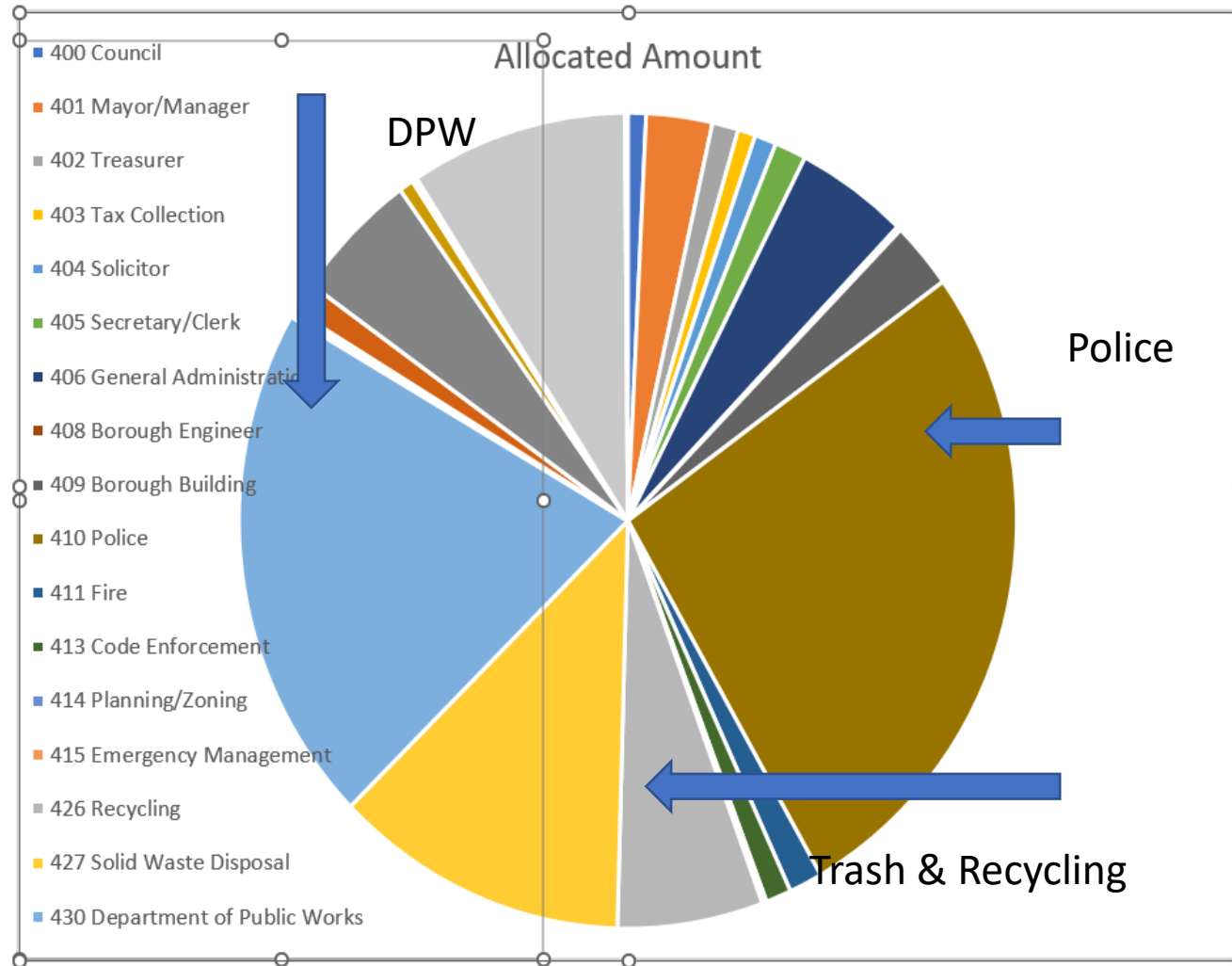
1. We hope to receive a large amount of input therefore we have established controls for public comment to ensure that the conversation is efficient and all speakers have the opportunity to speak.
 - a. Commentor must sign up to speak
 - b. Commentor must provide their name and address
 - c. Commentor can only speak from the podium
 - d. Only one person speaking at a time
 - e. Only one time at the podium
 - f. Public comment will be limited to 3 mins per individual
 - g. No public comment until the presentation is completed
 - h. For time and efficiency sake, Council will withhold any response until public comment is completed
 - i. All Clarks Summit residents are encouraged to take notes, ask questions and leave their survey response at the end of the session. You are always welcome to change your mind but Council is looking for direction.
 - j. Moderator Attorney Mariclare Hayes will control input and flow of discussion

What tax money does the borough receive?

Example: 20,000 assessment X millage

Clarks Summit Borough $31.75 * 20 =$	\$ 635.00	15.4%
Lackawanna County $46.26 * 20 =$	\$ 925.20	22.6%
Abington Heights SD $127.0889 * 20 =$	<u>\$2,541.78</u>	<u>62%</u>
Total	\$4,101.98	

How is that money used?



Of special interest:

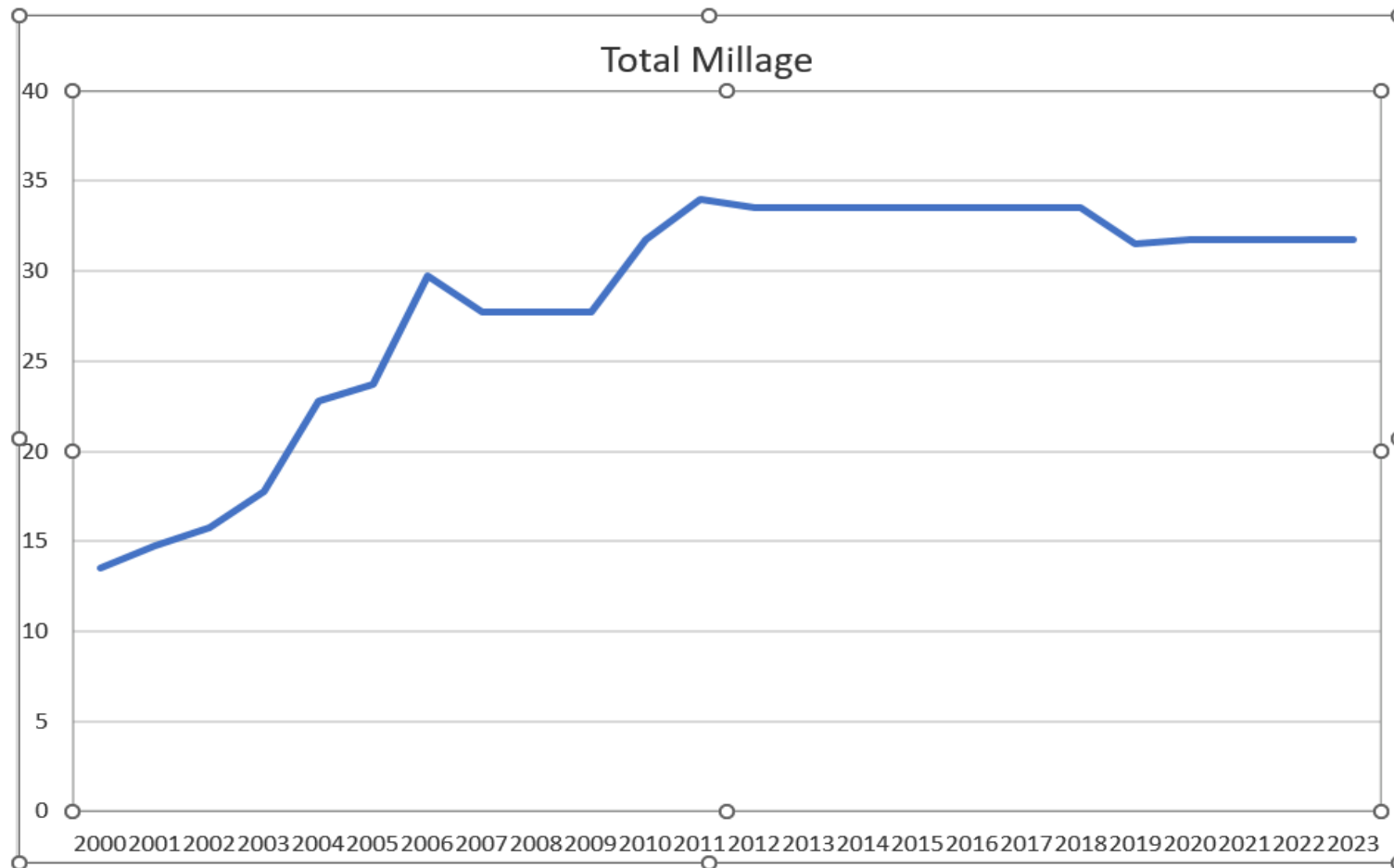
27%	Police	\$888,311.85
21%	DPW	\$622,166.60
<u>18%</u>	<u>MSW and recycling</u>	<u>\$607,344.00</u>

66% of the total = \$2,117,822.45

What benefits do residents receive?

- 24/7/365 police coverage
- 24/7/365 snow removal
 - Brush removal
 - Leaf pickup
 - Trash/recycling
- Parks/maintenance – Hillside, Veteran’s Park, Hemlock Park, Lewis Lane Park, Carnation Dr. Park, Carol Dr. Park, Front St. Park, Depot St. Park
 - 24/7/365 Roads/maintenance – paving, tarring, cleaning
 - Stormwater Control
 - Animal Control
 - Urban Planning/Design
 - Enforcement of zoning laws

How has the Borough tax rate



What does the state allow for taxation?

(a) Authority.--The council of the borough shall have power, by ordinance, to levy and collect annually a tax not exceeding 30 mills for general borough purposes and in addition any of the following taxes:

- (1) An annual tax sufficient to pay interest and principal on any indebtedness
- (2) To provide for pensions, retirement or the purchase of annuity contracts for borough employees
- (3) To defray the cost and expenses of caring for shade trees
- (4) For lighting and illuminating the streets, highways and other public places
- (5) For gas, water and electric
- (6) For the purchase of fire engines, fire apparatus and fire hose for the use of the borough or for assisting any fire company in the borough in the purchase, renewal or repair of any of its fire engines, fire apparatus or fire hose, for the purposes of making appropriations to fire companies both within and without the borough and of contracting with adjacent municipalities or volunteer fire companies in adjacent municipalities for fire protection, for the training of fire personnel and payments to fire training schools and centers or for the purchase of land upon which to erect a firehouse, or for the erection and maintenance of a firehouse or fire training school and center
- (7) For building a firehouse, fire training school and center, lockup or municipal building
- (8) To establish and maintain a local library
- (9) For the purpose of supporting ambulance, rescue and other emergency services
- (10) An annual tax sufficient for the purpose of maintaining and operating recreation places or for paying the borough's share of a joint action

What options do we have available for trash pickup?

- The bids will be voted on to award either MSW weekly pickup or biweekly pickup.
- The bids will be voted on to award with Bulk Item pickup either weekly or monthly.
- The bids will be voted on to award with Recycling pickup either biweekly or monthly.

How will these options affect the budget?

Current billing: \$48,828 per month X 12 = \$585,936 per year

Current mill value: approx. \$43,500

Current millage dedicated to trash: $\$585,936 / \$43,500 = 13.5$
mills

Estimated billing at for new contract increase: \$915,527 or
20.35 mills

These are our options:

1. Borough goes to court to petition for an increase in taxes
2. Borough bill the residents for partial costs
3. Borough bill residents for entire cost
4. JP Mascaro and Sons does the billing

How does this impact you?

Option 1

If the borough is granted permission to increase the tax millage, the average household Borough Tax will increase from \$590.00 to \$820.00.*

Pro: The change is seamless to the tax-payer

Con: The cost for each house is based on their assessed value

Con: The cost for the court proceedings would be an additional expense

Con: Court would need to be repitioned every year

Con: There is no guarantee that the court will grant this petition

Option 2

The Borough bill each household an amount to prevent the millage from increasing. Average household Borough tax stays at \$590.00 but Borough bills the residents approximately \$156.80* for the additional costs.

Pro: There is no need to petition court

Con: Homeowner receives tax bill and trash bill

Option 3

We remove the entire cost of the trash from the taxes and bill each household for their trash. Average household Borough tax will be reduced to \$320.00 but households would be billed \$398.21* for trash

Pro: Homeowner sees a reduction in their taxes

Pro: Cost of billing is spread over a larger base

Con: Homeowner will have 2 separate bills to pay

Option 4

Council removes the trash costs entirely from the budget and JP Mascaro bills the residents for the trash service. The average household Borough tax will be reduced to \$320.00 and the trash bill from JP Mascaro is \$390.01

Pro: Least expensive option

Pro: Borough staff do not have additional functions necessitating a new hire

Con: Homeowner will have 2 bills to pay

Options for the future to reduce costs:

How can we reduce our trash?

Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community

- DEP has issued “Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community”, a simple guide to help residents and businesses understand recycling in Pennsylvania. The booklet help Pennsylvanians to recycle correctly by finding recycling programs in their local area, learning their local rules, and following them to maximize the social, environmental, and economic benefits of recycling.
- The act established a \$2-per-ton fee on all waste disposed at municipal waste landfills and waste-to-energy facilities, and established grants for local collection programs, public education, materials processing, composting facilities, and equipment and technical training. The fee generates approximately \$48 million annually which is used to support waste reduction, recycling and planning in the Commonwealth.

Waste Reduction

Reducing the amount of waste we produce is the best way to prevent harmful materials from entering our environment. If we can cut our consumption and production of waste, less resources will be needed to facilitate the recycling process. There are plenty of reasons to reduce the amount of waste we produce:

Save Money

- We can reduce expenses by avoiding unnecessary pack

Conserve Natural Resources

- The extraction and processing of virgin materials has a large environmental impact. By wasting less, we consume less.

Save Energy

- Manufacturing and transporting the goods we consume depletes energy resources while also producing harmful greenhouse gases.

Save Time

- Reducing household clutter or eliminating unwanted junk mail can make life easier. When we reduce waste at the source, we don't need to spend time recycling or discarding it.

Cut Disposal Costs

- Programs like Pay As You Throw allow us to benefit financially from our waste reduction efforts

Pay As You Throw

Pay As You Throw (PAYT) programs charge residents for waste removal services based on the quantity of material discarded. Some may have a set rate per bag, while others use a combination of a fixed subscription fee plus a variable fee based on service. Many residents find this to be an economical and equitable means of paying for waste collection.

The benefits of PAYT programs include:

- Fairness – each household pays based on its use of solid waste services.
- Increased Recycling – residents have incentive to recycle everything possible in their community.
- Waste Reduction – consumers become more aware that they can purchase recycling packaging, avoid excessive packaging and consider alternatives to disposable products.
- Composting – householders have incentive to reduce waste and recycle by practicing home composting, vermicomposting (using worms) and grasscycling (leaving grass clippings in the lawn).

Product Waste Reduction

Durable goods and nondurable goods make up about 43% of the municipal waste stream. Durable goods include items like cars, appliances, and other long-lasting products. Nondurable goods include paper, textiles, and other short-lived products. One principal of waste reduction is to substitute more durable goods for less durable ones.

For example:

- Use cloth towels instead of paper.
- Use glasses instead of paper cups.
- Use rechargeable batteries instead of non-rechargeables. (Be sure to recycle them when they are worn out.)

You can also make durable goods last longer by choosing high quality items and maintaining them. Consumer magazines can assist in the process of picking reliable brands that perform well. Whether you are shopping for a car or a blender, a bit of research can save money and reduce waste in the long run.

Instead of buying books and magazines, take some time to visit your community library. You'll be surprised to find a wide selection of literature, movies, music and more. Peruse the latest periodicals, or check out the latest books, there is something of interest to everyone. Many libraries sell used books to raise funds. Check to see if your library will accept donations of your old books.

Finally, consider whether buying more stuff will really make you happier. Would more time or less debt be a better option? Would a hike in the woods be more satisfying than going shopping?

Use It Again - Reuse

Reducing clutter and cleaning out the basement and closets is a good rainy day project. But what can you do with all that stuff that is too good to throw away but of no use to you? Give life to your old stuff. Sell it, give it away to individuals, or donate it to charitable organizations. Community yard sales, on-line or local auctions, flea markets, or classified ads are all good ways to get your stuff to a good home and make some money. Another option is to donate the stuff to a charitable organization and possibly earn a tax deduction.

Even if you can't or don't want to sell something, it's likely that you can give it away. Put it in your yard with a free sign on it or try Freecycle. The Freecycle Network is a collection of almost 3,000 local on-line communities totaling over 1.5 million people. You can offer free things to the community, or even request an item you would like to have. <http://freecycle.org>. Even simple things like sharing your old magazines with co-workers or neighbors can make a difference.

Building and construction materials can also be reused by charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. They operate a number of Re-Stores that sell materials donated by retailers, manufacturers and homeowners.

Leaf and Yard Waste Reduction

- Yard trimmings, food scraps and other organics make up about 34% of municipal waste landfilled in Pennsylvania. The percentage can vary considerably in different communities due to varying yard sizes and horticultural practices. Whenever you can manage this material in your own yard compared to having it collected for municipal composting, there are environmental and economic benefits by reducing the cost of collection and transportation. Additionally, the organic material can be used on-site to enrich lawns and gardens.

Grasscycling

One of the easiest ways to reduce yard waste is by recycling grass clippings directly back into the lawn. Avoid excessive applications of fertilizer, as the grass clippings return nitrogen to the soil. Small quantities of extra grass clippings can be mixed into a compost pile or used as a thin mulch layer.

[Composting](#) - Organic materials will compost by themselves, but a little care and attention will make the process neater and quicker. Just mix brown and green organic materials, keep it moist and aerated, and mix it up occasionally. A well-tended pile made of chopped materials can be finished in 2 to 4 weeks, while brown leaves left on their own may take a year. The resulting compost provides valuable organic material and fertilizer when used as a mulch or soil amendment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

THANK YOU

Please remember to tear off the bottom of the agenda, mark the options that best suits you and leave it in the box as you exit.