

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Council VP Gary Hoffmann

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Valerie Beckius, Damien Brewster, Kathy Costello and Mayor Wright-Riggins. Absent: Marion McKinney

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief John Barnshaw, Manager Tamara Twardowski

Opening Remarks;

Mr. Hoffmann explained that the 2026 draft budget shows a deficit of approximately \$225,000.

- When he and Ms. Twardowski began refining the budget, the deficit was closer to \$500,000, but reductions were made to minimize the need for a tax increase.
- The remaining deficit stems from two contractual obligations:
- Trash services (annual increase of \$20–25K through 2027)
- Police department (approx. 10% increase due to salaries and benefits)
- To close the gap, Mr. Hoffmann suggested a 1 mil tax increase, generating about \$260,000, which would bring the Borough's total millage to 8.55 mils.
- Ms. Twardowski noted that the average millage for Montgomery County boroughs with police departments is 9.75, providing context for the proposed increase.
- Mr. Hoffmann emphasized that if Council opposes a tax increase, cuts must be identified to balance the budget.

Budget Review

- Ms. Twardowski walked Council through revenues and expenses.
- Revenue Highlights Include
 - MS4 project reimbursement (completed in 2025)
 - Traffic light improvements – Green Light Go
 - Bum Hollow Trail project – Montco 2040
- Expense Highlights Include
 - Bum Hollow Trail
 - Traffic signal upgrades
 - \$360,000 in road work
 - Police expense increase
 - Trash collection increase

Public Comment

- Craig Penuel (5th Avenue) supported the tax increase, noting that expenses rise annually.
 - He asked how the additional \$30–40K beyond the deficit would be allocated and suggested stipends for volunteer firefighters.
 - Mr. Hoffmann invited him to submit a formal proposal for Council's consideration.

Actions:

MOTION to authorize advertising the 2026 proposed budget, which includes a 1mil tax increase to the general fund by Kernan, seconded by Costello.

MOTION Carries 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.