BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP
2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
"THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY"

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MAYOR Aneka Miller

DEPUTY MAYOR Eugene M. Fuzy

COMMITTEEMAN Eric Holliday

COMMITTEEMAN William Grayson

COMMITTEEWOMAN Kelly Lozito

BUDGET INFORMATION/SCHEDULE "SHOWDOWN AT HIGH NOON"

- Budget scheduled for Introduction on March 23, 2026
- Introduced Budget is required to be available to the public for 28 days prior to the public hearing and consideration of adoption
  - Posted on the Township website
  - Published in the designated newspapers
  - Available in the Clerk's Office
- Additional budget details and further discussion will be held at the April 13, 2026 Committee Meeting
- Assuming no amendments or changes to the introduced budget, the Township Committee will consider adoption of the 2026 Municipal Budget following a public hearing at the April 27, 2026 regular Township Committee meeting

PROPERTY TAX OVERVIEW
"THE RULES OF THE DUEL"

"There must be a fair fight"

All Municipalities, by law, are required to adopt a balanced budget.

Meaning, spending MUST equal revenues.

- A town's **general tax rate** divides the total dollar amount of taxes needed by the total assessed value of all its taxable property.
- An individual homeowner's property taxes are calculated by multiplying that **general tax rate** by the assessed value of the particular property.

POSITIVE TRENDS "THE GOOD"

- Surplus/Fund Balance
  - Surplus Available: $7,319,750
  - End of previous year $6,023,428
  - Increase of $1,296,322 from 2025
- Average Home Value increased to $244,035
- Average Home Sale: $447,875- increase from $434,198 in 2025
- Bond Rating- AA Bond Rated, SP-1+ rated for Notes
- 2.62% Debt / Valuation Ratio (3.5% permitted max)
  - Incudes the new municipal complex
  - The Debt/Value ratio is lower than 2025 (2.95%) due to the increased overall valuation of the Township

2026 BUDGET CHALLENGES: EXPENSES "THE BAD"

- Increases in Pension, Health Insurance, and Group Liability Insurance Costs
  - Pension Costs (PERS, PFRS, Social Security)increase of $50,000
  - Health Insurance increase of over $100,000 for second consecutive year
  - Worker's Compensation and Liability Insurance increase of $10,000
- Increase in Solid Waste Collection (Garbage Pick-Up)
  - Contractual Increase in Garbage Collection: increase $17,000- contract up this year
  - Addition of new multi-family developments: increase $25,500
- Reserve for Uncollected Taxes: $1,469,974, increase of $20,000
- Contractual Salary Increases – All Collective Bargaining Units
  - All Bargaining Units were re-negotiated and began 1/1/2025
- Utility Costs- Electricity, Street Lights, and Natural Gas total increase $113,000
- Annual Contract increases (professional fees, RWJ Barnabas EMS)- EMS contract up in July 2026

2026 BUDGET MESSAGE
"THE(NOT REALLY THAT)UGLY"

Recommendation: Proposed 2026 Municipal tax rate of $0.667
This represents an increase of $0.015 from 2025 tax rate of $.0653

- **2025:** The Average Homeowner in Bordentown Township paid $1,587.30 in Municipal Taxes - 2025 tax rate $0.653

- **2026:** The Average Homeowner in Bordentown Township would pay $1,632.85 in Municipal Taxes - Proposed new tax rate $0.667

	Home Value	2026 Mun Taxes	2025 Mun Taxes	$ Diff/Yr	$ Diff/Mo
AVG Home	$ 244,806	$ 1,632.85	$ 1,587.30	$ 45.55	$ 3.80
	$ 300,000	$ 2,001.00	$ 1,950.00	$ 51.00	$ 4.25
	$ 400,000	$ 2,668.00	$ 2,600.00	$ 68.00	$ 5.67
	$ 500,000	$ 3,335.00	$ 3,250.00	$ 85.00	$ 7.08
	$ 600,000	$ 4,002.00	$ 3,900.00	$ 102.00	$ 8.50

2026 BUDGET MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

- The 2026 value of one penny in the Municipal Tax Rate is: $141,001.29 The value of one penny in 2025 was $135,582.75 (increase of $5,418.54 or 4%)

In order to reduce the $.015 proposed tax increase, the Committee would either have to:

- DECREASE SPENDING in the amount of $ 141,001.29 for every cent reduced
- INCREASE REVENUES in the amount of $ 141,001.29 for every cent reduced

Decreasing appropriation spending is difficult given the amount of expenditures the Township is obligated to. Reduction in staff or significant cuts in operating expenses would have negative impacts on Township services and future budgets.

Increasing revenues could be accomplished by increasing the amount of Surplus utilized in the 2026 Budget or anticipating higher revenues in certain categories. Neither option is recommended.

2026 REVENUE BREAKDOWN

2026 Municipal Budget: $19,671,604

Revenues:

Surplus used:	$3,706,000
NJ State Aid:	$910,092
Fees and Permits:	$100,000
Municipal Court:	$172,000
Shared Services:	$488,937
UCC fees:	$420,000
Verizon/Cable Franchise Fees:	$124,348
Cannabis Tax:	$250,000
PILOTs:	$949,751
Hotel/Motel Fees:	$344,000
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes:	$430,000
Grants:	$856,701
Reserve for Debt Services:	$1,140,000
Other:	$369,483
Total	$10,261,312

Amount to be raised by Taxation:
$9,410,291

2026 BUDGET REVENUE EXPLANATION

- 2026 Revenue Sources

- Surplus: Surplus is generated from unanticipated revenues, revenues that exceed anticipated amounts, and unspent appropriations from previous years.
- Licenses/State Aid: This includes permits, fees, municipal court revenues, and State Aid.
- Reserve Funds: The Township's General Capital Reserve and specific PILOT payments are utilized as an offset to Debt Service.
- Franchise Fees: This includes hotel fees, Verizon and Comcast fees, and cannabis tax.
- Grants: Any grant received by the Township, ranging from recycling, police-related grants for equipment, OEM grants, and DOT road grants are included in this revenue line.
- PILOTs: The Township anticipates some long-term PILOTs, and only a small portion of 5-year Abatement revenues.

After utilizing the revenues above, the remaining balance to fund the 2025 budget must come in the form of ***"Amount to be Raised by Taxation."*** *The Amount to be Raised by Taxation is what drives the Municipal Tax Rate.*

2026 SPENDING BREAKDOWN

Category	Amount	% of budget
Salaries:	$6,000,636	31%
Operating Expenses:	$1,082,185	6%
Debt Service:	$3,456,009	18%
Pension/Social Security:	$1,827,268	9%
Insurance:	$1,665,516	8%
Utilities:	$709,600	4%
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes:	$1,469,974	7%
Garbage:	$1,171,650	6%
Professional Services:	$502,900	3%
Capital Improvement:	$200,000	1%
EMS:	$513,530	3%
Other/Miscellaneous (including grants):	$1,072,336	5%

Total Appropriations: $19,671,604

2026 BUDGET SPENDING EXPLANATION

- 2026 Appropriations Categories

- Salaries: Of the $6M expended in salaries, $3.3M comes from Police, and nearly $1M comes from Public Works. The Township employs approximately 75 people.
- Debt Service: The Township's Debt Service has remained consistent at $3,456,009 (bonds and notes). The Township's strong bond rating allows for lower interest rates. The construction of the new municipal building has a minimal effect on the 2026 budget.
- Reserve for Uncollected Taxes: The Township is required to account for full payments to all taxing entities (School, County, Fire District) regardless of collection of all taxes. In 2026, this line item is $1,469,974.
- PFRS/PERS/SS/DCRP: Statutory and uncontrollable payments for Pension and Social Security.
- Insurance: Includes general liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance, and health benefit insurance (offset by employee contributions).

2026 BUDGET SPENDING EXPLANATION (CON'T)

- Garbage Collection: This includes our garbage contract, tipping/landfill fees, and statutory cost to pick up garbage from multi-family apartments.
- Utilities: PSEG (gas and electric), water, sewer, telephones, and gasoline.
- Contracts/Professional Services: Legal fees, engineering costs, audit costs, and other contracts (EMS, marketing, etc.)
- Other: Public Events, IT, Senior Services, etc.
- Operating Expenses: All other operating costs, including vehicle maintenance, buildings and grounds, park maintenance, office supplies, education, statutory certifications, etc.

WHAT DO RESIDENTS GET FOR THEIR DOLLAR?

- Full-Time Municipal Services
  - Registrar/Vital Statistics
  - Permitting and Licensing
  - Agenda Preparation/Actions
- Fully Staffed Police Department
  - Four Full Patrol Squads
  - Full-Time Detective Division
  - 12-month School Resource Officer and SLEO III
  - Community Policing
- Public Works
  - Maintenance of Parks and Public Buildings
  - Stormwater Maintenance and Repairs
  - Snow Plowing

WHAT DO RESIDENTS GET FOR THEIR TAX DOLLAR? (CONT'D)

- Full-Time Municipal Court Operations
  - Host Shared Service with Chesterfield Township
  - Zoom and in-person sessions
- Infrastructure Improvements
  - Aggressive Street Paving Program
  - Parks Improvements
  - Pedestrian/Bike Path Improvements
- Full-Time Financial Services
  - In-person Tax Collections
  - In-person support for Senior Freeze/Veteran's Deductions
  - Two part-time Tax Assessors available for public

WHAT DO RESIDENTS GET FOR THEIR TAX DOLLAR? (CONT'D)

- Community Events
  - Fireworks
  - Fish Derby
  - Fall Festival
  - Veterans Day and Memorial Day Celebrations
  - Spring Easter Egg Hunt
  - Holiday Tree Lighting
- Emergency Medical Services/EMS
- Enhanced Community Outreach and Communications
  - Bordentown App
  - New Website
  - Increased Social Media Profile
  - Modernization of online services

2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY – "THE BOTTOM LINE"

- The Township is in strong financial shape, and is well-positioned for future budgets
- New Revenue Sources and Additional Shared services need to be continually researched and attracted
- Township infrastructure needs to continue to grow, including facilities, equipment and staffing
- Reminder: Township taxes make up approximately 17% of the overall property tax bill

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

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